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Making Your House A Home
Pages 22-26

Welcome to Cowbridge
See our feature beginning on Page 16

MP fears town may lose its Post Office services

LOCAL MP Alun Cairns, is continuing to have talks with representatives of the Post Office over a replacement premises in Cowbridge – with less than two weeks to go at its current location.

The Post Office is said to be 'pursuing a number of viable options' in the town, but Mr Cairns is concerned there is a growing danger that there could be a gap in provision if an alternative provision isn't agreed within the next few days.

Cowbridge will lose its current facility when the Spar closes on April 23.

The MP said: "I am heartened to hear that the Post Office is pursuing a number of viable options.

"However, I am somewhat concerned that Cowbridge residents face having no service for a period, if a replacement site cannot be found soon."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

WI's BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

Founder members of Bont Faen WI.
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

'Vote' on new play equipment

COWBRIDGE Town Council is giving local youngsters a 'vote' on what the replacement equipment in Twt Park should be.

A council spokesman explained that there are three options on the table, but it was keen to hear what local residents, particularly young people, had to say.

A spokesman for the council explained: "The town council has recently acquired funding towards the cost of the replacement of some of the older equipment in Twt Park.

"Three proposals have now been obtained from separate independent playground equipment companies and the town council now intends to give the users of the park, especially the children who use the equipment, the opportunity to 'vote' on which proposal they think is the best."

The proposals can be viewed in the Lesser Hall this Friday, April 11 from 3pm to 4.30pm, or on Saturday, April 12 from 10am to 12.30pm.

New £120,000 funding boost for local school

A local primary school is to benefit from £120,000 in extra funding.

Llanfair Primary School, not far from Cowbridge, is the latest school to benefit from investment in school buildings from the Vale Council.

Money was set aside by the council last month after its budget was agreed. The injection of funding at the school will be used to improve school buildings.

A total of £120,000 will help towards extending a classroom, providing an additional learning room, more storage and repairing the roof to the main building.

Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children's services, said: "I'm determined that local school children and teachers will have access to safe, pleasant working conditions.

"I'm delighted that we are able to fund improvements to Llanfair Primary School and in doing so further enhance a superb learning environment."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Eternity with Love
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13th April 2014
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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. ***Letters and e-mails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number***. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'My fantastic NHS treatment'

AFTER all the bad press the NHS gets, I would like to say how fantastic staff were recently, especially Dr Edghall, at Cowbridge Surgery.

The ambulance staff who took me to the Heath Hospital were fantastic, too.

The care in the cardiology ward at the Heath was excellent, and also my short stay in Ward 4, Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend,was excellent.

I was discharged from both hospitals in the last month. Thank you again to everyone.
Mr D Punter,
Cowbridge.

'The wildlife suffers as trees are cut down'

IN response to the reader's letter regarding the cutting down of the trees in The GEM on March 20, I am also dismayed at the council's actions.

I have lived in Rhoose most of my life, and the area has never looked so bare and depressing. The plants have literally been ploughed down and it will take years for them to grow back.

I believe that we are having the wool pulled over our eyes and this is more to do with the view of a few houses than the habitat. Yet at the same time, it has destroyed the privacy for others. You would never see this being done in Cosmeston.

If the wildlife had been taken into consideration, the plants would have been thinned out and cut back to allow more light for the younger plants, but leaving the buddleia for the bees and butterflies that are already struggling to survive in this country.

They would also have left enough coverage for the rabbits. Since the plants have been removed, I haven't seen one rabbit crossing the path in front of me but I have, sadly, in one week alone, seen two dead ones where they obviously couldn't find any cover.

To add insult to injury, we've paid for this with our Council Tax.

I personally would much prefer to see the wildlife and the rabbits playing, than looking at the brown waters of the Bristol Channel.
Clare Williams,
Rhoose Point.

AN 'E-CIG BAN DEFIES LOGIC'

THE Welsh Government now inhabits the lunatic fringe of British politics.

The proposal to ban e-cigarettes in public places defies logic. First, the anti-smoking charity ASH thinks it a bad idea and there is no evidence to suggest that the use of e-cigarettes encourages others to become addicted to smoking.

One might as well suggest that someone drinking a glass of lemonade in a pub will be tempted to become an alcoholic because they witness the consumption of beer, wine and spirits.

The scarcity of clear thinking extends to Westminster, where the national government plans to place graphic illustrations of the consequences of smoking on cigarette packets.

Presumably, their next step will be to insist that the drinks industry labels all its products with examples of how alcohol can destroy lives through disease, violence, crime and drink driving.

I don't think so, somehow.
Derek Hooper,
Barry.

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'Why I voted against opposing a merger'

– INDEPENDENT COUNCILLOR

IT is heartening to hear that the leader of the council's Conservative group supports my disagreement with the proposed council tax increase (The GEM, March 27 – 'Merger would be disastrous').

However, I cannot agree with that statement, nor can I agree with "bad old days of South Glamorgan/submerging the Vale into a greater Cardiff"... It would be interesting to see the evidence that supports this hypothesis.

The current situation with heads of service in education, highways, and social services etc, operating 11 miles from each other, is unsustainable and very costly.

The merger report itself tells us that if the VoG combined with Cardiff tomorrow, our council tax would reduce by 5.3 per cent. You would not run a company on the basis of this duplication of senior managers and boardroom personnel.

It was no surprise to me that all councillors present at the recent council meeting voted to support Coun Thomas's proposition. I alone voted against the motion because I do not agree with the statement that the council is a "viable and successful authority which should continue in its present form".

Additionally, I did not think it appropriate for councillors to discuss and vote on an issue which would have had financial consequences on their remuneration, or improve their chances of being re-elected.

If the merger went ahead, councillor numbers would reduce from 47 to 20, and anyone with the ability to add a few numbers would be able to realise the situation.

Should the merger of councils take place, Wales would still have more councillors per head of population than Scotland, which currently has almost twice the population of Wales with less than half the councillors.

There would be a substantial reduction in the number of senior officers and councillors, but there would be the same number of bins to collect and the same number of children to educate, and the same amount of work for ordinary staff to do.

The VoG council tax rise was amongst the largest in UK last year and very high this year at 4.5 per cent.

Ordinary people are having to make severe changes to their families' finances and we elected politicians should be doing the same.
Philip Clarke, Independent councillor

Steering around the potholes...

REGARDING the access road to the Llandow amenity site and J Snelson's and other people's letters over the months... the road isn't perfect, but I certainly do not view it as akin to the surface of the moon – which, in the main, has large areas of smooth and dusty surfaces interspersed with the odd crater.

When visiting the facility, I find it very easy indeed to steer around any potholes, taking care and at an appropriate speed. With such precautions, I find that I put my vehicle at no risk at all of 'severe damage' and certainly do not feel 'disgusted', reserving such hyperbole to their appropriate use.

Taking a sensible view, the potential for damage to a vehicle's suspension on the Llandow access road is no worse than that of 'sleeping policemen' now appearing across the road network.

In fact, a driver is obliged to drive over these traffic-calming measures, whereas at Llandow there is, for observant and careful drivers, the opportunity to avoid them.

Sadly, Mr Snelson is not aware that the link between the annual vehicle tax paid by drivers and the money used to build and maintain roads, was abolished in 1937.

Clearly, the use of centralised waste disposal sites is more cost-efficient for the council, reducing the rates levied on the community when we're concerned about the recent rise in these.

The council undertakes kerbside collection (with, as far as I can ascertain, no limit on volume) and free collection of bulky items and there seem to be many trucks touring our streets with megaphones, asking for items for recycling.
Mike Duxbury, Rhoose

Wind turbines in conservation area

MUCH has been said in recent weeks by GEM readers in their letters to the Editor, about the gradual erosion of the rural Vale by unsympathetic housing development and the growing number of planning applications to erect unsightly wind turbines.

There is, I believe, an important factor which has been overlooked in the current debate which should have a considerable bearing on the way the Vale Council deals with planning applications relating to these types of development.

Many villages in the Vale have been designated by the Vale Council as conservation areas. The majority have been designated as such for many years. Conservation areas are, by definition, those which the council consider to be of special architectural or historic interest.

The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 imposes a statutory duty on local planning authorities (LPAs) to preserve or enhance all such areas. Section 72 of the Act specifically requires an LPA to pay special attention to this duty when exercising its planning functions.

It should, therefore, follow that any proposed development which would have an adverse effect on the character or appearance of a conservation area should be rejected, regardless of any other policy considerations.

This applies equally to proposals which amount to overdevelopment of a conservation village, or the construction of unsightly wind turbines in, or close to, conservation areas.
Robert Ryder
Colwinston

'Bobby made my small son's day'

I WOULD like you to print a letter of thanks to the police officer who let my son sit in his police car on his third birthday.

He was playing outside in his police outfit when the officer pulled over and let him get into the car. He had a quick push of the lights and siren.

I could not wipe the smile off his face all day. He was so happy he kept saying: " I am a very lucky boy." The officer was very kind and very thoughtful.

I would like to thank him for showing such a positive side of the police. It really made his day.
Terri Swain, Rhoose.

Disrespectful to call Independents 'Indies' COUNCILLOR

I REFER to the letter from Anthony Ernest published in The GEM recently.

It is quite clear to me that Mr Ernest failed to understand the contents of my letter concerning the criteria for the allocation of funding from the Welsh Government published in The GEM early in March, and I suggest that he has another try to read my letter and it may help him to take off his blue tinted glasses.

He said that he thought the last administration did a good job. They may well have done, in his opinion, but the public obviously disagreed, especially in his own ward at Sully, where he was defeated by an independent and a UKIP candidate in the Vale Council elections.

I am not surprised with his dislike for independents but it is no good blaming others for his defeat – he should have worked harder for the people he represented.

Please do not be disrespectful by calling Llantwit First Independents 'Indies' – as a former county councillor you should know better.
Coun Gwyn John,
Llantwit Major.

'Mystery of my two white daffs!'

I HAVE enclosed a photo of two white daffodils found growing in one of my garden pots.

With all the daffs I have each year, I have never seen anything like these before. They came up yellow, just like a rose, then as they grew, I could see they were different from all the others.

I have sent the photo to you to see if you or one of your readers have ever seen the likes before?

I would be interested to learn more about them if possible, with your help.
Mr Les Vickery, Sully.

Damage caused by speed bumps?

WHILE walking up Church Road in Llanblethian last week, I found part of a coil spring from a small car.

These, like most items today, are not made as well as they used to be and are weakened by speed bumps.

So if your car is feeling a bit 'wobbly,' it would be a good idea to check it before serious damage occurs.
Alec Trousdell,
Llanblethian.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 17)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
10 Thur	03.43	7.4	16.19	7.5
11 Fri	04.42	7.9	17.12	8.1
12 Sat	05.25	8.4	17.53	8.6
13 Sun	06.08	8.9	18.27	9.0
14 Mon	06.45	9.3	19.03	9.4
15 Tues	07.19	9.6	19.39	9.7
16 Wed	07.57	9.8	20.16	9.9
17 Thur	08.32	9.8	20.51	10.0

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Man jailed after an attempted rape – CROWN COURT HEARING

by AJ SICLUNA

A WOMAN became traumatised and hysterical after a sex attack was carried out upon her in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The man responsible, Andrew Lynch (46) of Dimlands Road, Llantwit Major, has been found guilty of attempted rape and sexual assault.

He was found not guilty of rape during the trial at Cardiff Crown Court. He was jailed for four years and on his release will have to register as a sex offender for life.

The court heard that in October 2012, Lynch went to a house where the woman resided when she was lonely, unhappy and a little drunk.

Judge Daniel Williams told Lynch: "You talked and drank, and she told you to leave."

It was alleged that he then attempted to rape her, and as she physically resisted, he continued "repeatedly and with determination".

She said she kicked out at Lynch, who ended up in a linen basket. She fled to neighbours, who described her as being "beside herself, traumatised and hysterical".

Lynch had denied the charges and the Judge added: "Your defence was unconvincing to say the least. If you had admitted the offences, the sentence would have been shorter."

To some, said the Judge, Lynch was a valued and trusted friend.

"But there is another side to you which you showed on this night. The effect on your victim has been profound and the sentence must reflect the verdict of the jury."

Lynch's counsel, Kevin Seal, said: "He appreciates what the sentence will be. There are many character references and the case has taken 17 months to come to trial."

Cowbridge Bridge: LATEST RESULTS

RECENT results for Cowbridge and District (Llanblethian) Bridge Club are as follows:

Tuesday, March 25: First, Ireen and Richard Daniels, 63.92 per cent; second, Teri Pollard and Anne Hughes, 62.86 per cent; third, Pat and Brian Swain, 55.71 per cent.

Tuesday, April 1: First, Anne Hughes and Teri Pollard, 65.15 per cent; second, Marian East and Rita Williams, 59.72 per cent; third, Mearl Owen and Debbie Rorevear, 57.78 per cent.

GR

BIG SCREEN'S NEXT MOVIE

BIG SCREEN'S next film in Cowbridge is *The Butler* (Cert 12A) on Thursday, April 17, at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

Cecil Gaines (Forest Whitaker), a sharecropper's son from the South, began his working life in domestic service but eventually graduated to become a butler in the White House serving many Presidents.

He witnesses the dramatic social change in his time, including the civil rights movement.

His own family gets swept up in these momentous changes. From his ambivalent position, how will Cecil deal with them?

Doors open 7.10pm. Tickets £4 (available in advance from the town clerk's office, or on the door).

AWELON'S BOOST FOR AUTISM SOCIETY

STAFF and service users at Awelon Healthcare have raised over £600 for The Autism Society.

Manager Kay Campbell, assistant manager Jo Bannister, staff and service users were generously sponsored by families, friends and members of the community to wear 'onesies' for the day, and hope that with further fundraising, they might reach £1,000 for The Autism Society.

Awelon Healthcare, a specialist care home for young adults with learning difficulties or mental health problems, opened in 2007 and has raised funds for Comic Relief, The British Heart Foundation and many other causes over the last seven years.

Based in Llanmaes, its service users are from all areas of the Vale and it will be opening a new residential care home in the late spring.

The WI celebrate 25 glorious years...

LAST week's GEM carried a report of the 25th anniversary celebrations at Bont Faen WI. These photos arrived too late to accompany the report, but The GEM is delighted to publish them this week.

Jane Crowe cuts Bont Faen's 25th anniversary cake.

Former Bluebell girl Rachel Williams with Bont Faen WI president Julie Harris.

Crafts, handbags and pennies for friendship

ON March 12, Penllyn and District WI had a 'Patchwork Workshop Day' in the Village Hall, where, under the expert guidance of Jill Watkins, we learnt how to do 'cathedral windows' patchwork.

Our craft evening was held on March 16, and we were doing various crafts depicting poppies, or making Christmas decorations – all working towards the WI show in July.

Our next craft evening will be Tuesday, April 15 when we will be 'card making'.

Our monthly members' meeting was held on Tuesday, April 1. Members were welcomed by president Novello Peters, who introduced our speaker, Thelma Taylor.

Thelma's talk was 'My Handbag', and was an extremely humorous account of the incredible number of handbags, purses, cameras, coats, etc., that she had 'lost,' 'left' or 'misplaced' in the course of her travels!

It was amazing to hear that most of the items were subsequently returned to her, often in the most unexpected way! The speaker was thanked by vice-president, Rhiannon Cory.Members then enjoyed coffees, teas and cakes, and had the opportunity to buy books from our bookstall and give 'pennies for friendship' as 'votes' for our competition of 'Dragons'.

During the business section of the meeting, information was given regarding various forthcoming local and federation events, and we were reminded that the vote on the WI resolution, 'Increase organ donations', will take place following a discussion at our next meeting.

Our next meeting on Tuesday, May 6, at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall will also be our AGM. New members are always warmly welcomed; we meet on the first Tuesday in every month (except August), at 7.30pm in Penllyn Village Hall.

For further information contact Novello 01656 674191 or Marjorie 01656 647115. **MN**

NEWS FROM THE COWBRIDGE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

These Easter eggs are looking good!

IN the past few weeks, Fabergé Imperial Eggs have been in the news, especially the one found on a bric-a-brac stall which solved one of the antique world's greatest mysteries.

Of the 50 made by the jeweller Carl Fabergé, eight have been missing for almost a century, but one found its way to this bric-a-brac stall in a quiet street in London's Mayfair priced at £8,000, now worth £20 million. This piece of news encouraged members of the Cowbridge Friendship Club to put their craft ideas to work when they created their own eggs in time for Easter, and what a kaleidoscope of colour they all managed to create, from the very ornate to the simpler designs, and these can all be viewed in the Cowbridge Library from May 1.

Why not pop along to see how creative the members can be during one of their craft sessions? Although I have to say, these eggs are not for purchase at any price!

We always have a variety of activities, with many craft days and speakers, which we hope caters for everyone's taste.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month, so if you or someone you know would like to know more about our Friendship Club, telephone 01656 668446 to find out more.

Pat Smith

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(EAGLE LANE (PART) COWBRIDGE) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2014

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below: -

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location	The road to be closed is Eagle Lane, adjacent to Eagle Cottage. A distance of approximately 20m.
Reason	To allow for building repair works to be carried out
Duration	From 7.00am on Tuesday 22nd April 2014 until 5.00pm on Friday 30th May 2014.
Alt. Route	Diversions for northbound traffic during the above closure will be signed in a south easterly direction along High Street to the junction of Town Hall Square, then proceeding in a northerly direction along Town Hall Square and along North Road to the northern point of the closure, and visa-versa.
NB:	Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

Dated this 10th day of April 2014.

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

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Fears for Post Office Services

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mr Cairns continued: "I have also spoken to a number of independent shops seeking to prompt interest. I have asked the Post Office to look at ensuring that any gap in provision after April 23 is covered by temporary arrangements in the short term.

"Clearly many people and businesses rely on having access to a counter service in the town and a decision is going to have to be taken in the coming days as to how we can best ensure that they do not lose that provision. I will continue to press the case."

One independent shop owner told The GEM that he intended to contact Mr Cairns and had two possible solutions to the question of where a Post Office could be located in the future.

Year 9s grab runners-up spot

On Friday, April 4, Llantwit Major Comprehensive's year-9 netballers took part in the Cardiff and Vale Schools finals for the third year running, hoping to go one better than last year when they finished runners up.

The opening game was against Corpus Christi. The girls started nervously but grew into the game as it progressed, winning a close 13-12.

Next up were Llantwit's main rivals Cardiff High School. The girls struggled to get into the game, losing disappointingly 12-4.

Their last game was against Howells, a must win game and the girls dominated from the start, winning a comfortable 10-2.

A well-earned second place was a good end to a successful season.

GB

Reader impressed with 'improved plan for Darren Farm'

THANK you to The GEM for Phillip Irwin's informative article regarding the new Darren Farm plan.

The revised development is a tremendous improvement that blends in with the surrounding area and the facilities of Cowbridge.

The new plan is totally positive, having many highlights. It will provide an easily accessible eastern exit from and onto the Cowbridge bypass, thereby removing the bulk of the through traffic and traffic jams in the town centre.

The siting of a roundabout near the Cross Inn will provide easy connection to and from the proposed A48 link road and will considerably reduce traffic past Tyla Rhosyr and Geraint's Way.

There will be safe access to the proposed school; also easy access from the development to St Brynach's church that may permit its use by a congregation and offer a beautiful location for weddings.

This is a well thought-out scheme and thanks should be given to its planners as I and others are now in favour of the development.

I note the comment made by the local resident objectors' group that the development will result in the loss of the livelihood of the tenant farmer, which is naïve to suggest, as any agreed tenancy will be compensated.

The likely compensation will permit purchase of more land, or to live in Barbados. More to the point, he won't have to think about getting up at 5am to milk the cows – he's got to be gutted.

John Gant Stewart,
Cowbridge.

Rotary honours for Scout leader

AT a recent Rotary Club meeting in the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, a Citizen Community Award was presented to Mr David Weber, by president Nicholas Broekstra.

For many years, David has given his time and energy to the Scout movement and is also greatly valued for his help to vulnerable people in the town in varied ways.

Remembering when the postman knocked seven times a day!

THE March meeting of Cowbridge Senior Citizens began with a short AGM and election of officers, when current officers were re-elected: chairman, Mavis Ashford (also acting secretary); treasurer, Patricia Prothero; committee members: Eleanor Watkins and Iris Short.

At the meeting on March 20, the speaker was David Salter, whose topic was the history of postcards, which he called 'What the Postman Saw!'

It was a brief history through the ages: the first postcards were sent on September 16, 1894. They were introduced as a cheaper means of contacting friends, they were just 1/4d each, or six for a penny. They cost 1/2d each to post. This was at the time when a letter was 1d.

This remained the same for 100 years. There were seven deliveries and collections every day, which was increased to 12 times in London!

It was possible to send a card to a friend in the morning post, saying they would arrive to visit them by lunch-time !

There were many printers of postcards (we all remembered Mabel Lucie Attwell and her humorous cards!). The most famous postcard artist was Donald McGill who produced 10,000 different designs. Many of these were collector's items, and often enlarged and framed as prints.

On Wednesday, March 25, we met once more for our trip to Carmarthen, where it was market day, as well as having the new shopping complex to visit.

The next meeting will be held on April 17 and our speaker will be Mike Clubb, whose topic is 'The Arsenal in Bridgend' at the Lesser Hall, Town Hall.

Our trip on April 22 is to Weston-Super-Mare and leaves at 9am (Town Hall). Alternative venues will be decided if the weather is inclement.

All new members are welcome to join us, for both these events.

Mavis Ashford
(chairman)

Funding boost for local school

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Diane Normansell, the headteacher at Llanfair Primary School, said she and the staff were very pleased to hear about the extra funding.

"We have a very popular school in a lovely location, but we would like to see some improvements to the building as we know decent accommodation is good for the morale of both staff and pupils.

"The money will provide an extension to a very small classroom and a new roof."

Hopping mad at country park!

A RECORD count of 230 frogs and toads at Porthkerry Country Park shows how successful the park's new ponds have been.

Members of Porthkerry Wildlife Group and the rangers visited the park on a wet drizzly evening and counted the number of frogs and toads in and around the water using strong torch light.

Mel Stewart, ranger at Porthkerry, said: "Ponds are extremely important for frogs, toads and newts especially at this time of year when they are busy spawning (laying their eggs). Common toads have a strong migratory instinct and will follow the same route back to ancestral breeding ponds each spring. It's good to see them using our new ponds."

The things you find on the beach...

MEMBERS and friends of Channel Coast surf club, along with environmental charity Surfers Against Sewage, took part in a beach clean at Llantwit Major beach on Saturday, March 29.

A spokesman said: "This is the third year that Channel Coast and SAS have combined forces to tidy our beautiful local coastline and was once again a great success.

"This year's beach clean was brought forward following the run of severe winter storms and notably increased levels of trash littering the UK's shoreline. A lot of marine waste had been washed up into the car park after the storm damage at Llantwit Major, which twice saw the local authorities having to reassemble the car park in the space of a month.

"As always, some rather peculiar pieces of trash were found, that were both amusing and worrying at the same time. Aside from the more typical marine litter found such as bottles, cans and the age old favourite car wheel, cigarette lighters seemed to be the most popular offender on this occasion.

"Channel Coast and SAS would like to thank all those who gave up their time," he added.

Llantwit pupils rewrite Dylan!

LLANTWIT MAJOR Comprehensive pupils attempted to 'rewrite' Dylan Thomas during a recent visit to the town library, when year-10 students attended an entertaining workshop run by author and scriptwriter, Dan Anthony.

The workshop – part of Literature Wales' Dylan Thomas centenary celebrations – featured the iconic poem Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night.

The students were encouraged by Dan to come up with their own alternative versions.

It resulted in a thought-provoking and lively discussion, as well as some impressive readings

CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

MAN JAILED AFTER TWO CANNABIS FACTORIES DISCOVERED

TWO 'cannabis factories' discovered by the police contained plants with a potential yield of the drug worth between £50,000 and £162,000, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Jamie Brown (27) of Buttrills Walk, Barry, was jailed for a total of 32 months.

He admitted two charges of producing cannabis and he was also in breach of a suspended sentence of producing cannabis in a property in Treherbert where 34 plants had been grown.

Prosecutor David Pugh said that on December 14, police saw Brown in Blackberry Drive, Barry, in a car in which he was a passenger.

They indicated for it to stop, but it failed to and after a collision, it was abandoned.

The police then searched the property in Blackberry Drive and found 105 cannabis plants growing in four separate rooms.

The electricity supply had been bypassed, there was lighting and nutrients. A neighbour in the road said the premises had been rented to the defendant and another person, who never seemed to live there.

Later, the police found 50 plants growing in three separate rooms in a house in Commercial Street.

Brown, said Mr Pugh, handed himself into the police in February.

He was said to have previous convictions for possessing drugs with intent to supply, supplying drugs, causing actual bodily harm, escape and dangerous driving.

His solicitor, Jonathan Lewis, said: "He has a young family and has tried to find work."

Judge Neil Bidder pointed out that Brown had previous convictions for drugs offences and had not learned from the past.

RECORDER CONDEMNS 'DISGRACEFUL EPISODE'

During an affray which took place in a residential area of Barry, a man was punched 16 times to the head and his face was also stamped on, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.

Daniel Jones, 31, of Cornerswell Road, Penarth, admitted a charge of affray, Ashley Miller, 33, of Merthyr Street, Barry, admitted a similar charge and possessing a knife, and Michael Reeves, 34, of Hillary Rise, Barry, pleaded guilty to a public order offence.

Jones was jailed for 10 months, sentence suspended for 18 months, Miller for 8 months, suspended for 18 months, and Reeve for 18 weeks, suspended for 18 months.

Jones was ordered to carry out 180 hours unpaid work, Miller 150 hours unpaid work, and Reeves 100 hours unpaid work. Each was also made subject to a one-year supervision order.

Recorder Jeremy Jenkins said "This was unnecessary and sustained violence on the streets of Barry."

He added "It was a disgraceful episode, following a house party when the atmosphere turned hostile."

It all took place, said the Recorder, in sight of elderly people waiting for a bus.

"Each of you richly deserved to go into custody," he said.

Prosecutor John Lloyd, said that on the evening of April 20, the three had been drinking heavily in a flat in Belvedere Crescent, Barry.

Jones and Reeves left, followed by Miller who had a knife.

Earlier, Jones and Reeves suffered small cuts and blamed Miller.

"What had gone on earlier in the flat is not clear," said Mr Lloyd.

However, said Mr Lloyd, Miller discarded the knife before the violence broke out.

He then squared up to Jones, who punched Miller 16 times to the head, kicked him and stamped on his head.

Shortly after, Reeves was seen to pick up something, approach Miller and square up to him.

There was a concerted effort, he said, by Miller, to get back at the other two, who left the scene. Later when Jones was arrested he spat in the face of a police constable.

Kevin Seal, for Miller, said he had been put in care at the age of 11 and the root of his problem was drugs and alcohol. He intended to change his lifestyle and settle down.

Each was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £80.

Community news from St Brides Major

Blind auction

A BLIND auction will be held at the Fox and Hounds, St Brides Major tomorrow (Friday, April 11) at 7pm.

All items have been donated and the proceeds are in aid of the Stroke Association and the new build at St Bride's school, which is now in its second phase. Do come along for an enjoyable evening.

St Bridget's Church

THERE will be services for Easter Day, April 20, at St Bridget's, St Brides Major, the Priory Church, Ewenny and all Saints, Southerndown.

Dates for the diary: April 26-27 – Slade gardens will be open for charity as part of the National Gardens Society. Admission is £4; visitors are also welcome by appointment in April and July. Contact Rosamond and Peter Davies for more information on 01656 880108.

Village market

ST BRIDE'S village market will take place this Saturday (April 12). This is a special charity event for Multiple Sclerosis. There are food and flower stalls, bric-a-brac, photocards of the Heritage coast, beautiful silk scarves, silk tissue holders and necklaces which all make ideal gifts.

Sponsored walk

THERE is a sponsored walk from Newbridge fields, Bridgend. It will start at 2pm and is in aid of the Stroke Association.

Please email your news to christina.davison123@btinternet.com.

WHAT'S ON / *in brief*

Age Connect

AGE CONNECT Cardiff and Vale is holding an advice session by Cardiff and the Vale Credit Union Ltd on April 15 from 10am to 12 midday at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

Free impartial and confidential advice will be available on money issues. Contact 01446 732385 for further information or go along for a chat.

Diabetes talk

THE Vale of Glamorgan Diabetes UK voluntary group will hold a meeting on April 15 in the Board Room, Llandough Hospital, Penarth from 7.30pm-9pm.

Professor Susan Wong will speak on 'How gut bacteria influence diabetes'. Everyone welcome.

£25 GEM FACEBOOK PRIZE
facebook.com/glamorgangem

DON'T WORRY, the iconic windmill is safe!

LAST week's shock-horror story that a wind turbine was planned for the top of Llantwit Major's iconic windmill, caused quite a stir, prompting some residents to phone in – asking us to make it clear that it was just a light-hearted April the 1st spoof.

For those readers who were taken in, The GEM is happy to do so!

To those who were taken in by this picture, it was an April the First joke!

Wind turbine story a 'shock' to residents

I WRITE to you with reference to your April fool story regarding a wind turbine being placed on top of the historic windmill in Llantwit Major.

I would like it noted that within hours of your GEM being circulated around the windmill area, the residents were not laughing, but instantly united to oppose any such structure!

By 7pm on Thursday night, the residents of Gwaun Illtuds had knocked on doors and had conscripted over 100 people to join them in their fight! Thank you everyone for your instant support.

I must also thank Coun Gwyn John, who was as shocked as us, and instantly started working through the night searching for information to give to the angry residents. A real credit to the Llantwit First Independents.

Some may say it was only an April fool – but 'many a true word spoken in jest'. To anybody who is thinking of a genuine project of this type, be fully aware we are a very strong united community that would oppose any such application.

Mrs Kerri Armstrong
(on behalf of residents at Gwaun Illtuds)

'Much amused' by April the First spoof

I WAS much amused by your news item concerning the installation of a wind turbine on the top of the windmill tower at Frampton.

It would have spoiled plans to turn it into a media centre for the cricket ground it overlooks – a structure which would have matched the iconic building at Lords'.

It will now mean that The GEM's sports reporter will have to file his copy wrapped up against the icy blast.

As was mentioned in the item, many Llantonians believe that the windmill never operated. In fact, it was in operation until 1847, when the miller was offered the lease of the watermill at The Ham.

There is also a watercolour by Henry Godfrey of a view over Llantwit Major painted c1840 which shows the windmill in full sail.

The artist went on to become one of the earliest painters of Australian scenes and the work can be found in the State Library of Victoria.

Nigel Williams
(Chairman, Llantwit Major History Society).

TV CLOWNS TO VISIT LLANTWIT MAJOR...

ALL the fun of the circus comes to Llantwit Major Town Hall this Easter school holiday when television's National Clown Theatre stages a special show on Tuesday, April 15 at 1.30pm.

Combining the comedy of pantomime with the fun of the circus the 80 minute performance features traditional slapstick clowns, magic, high flying diabolos, a human slinky acrobat, balancing, puppets, prizes, surprises and even a performing piranha.

The troupe are one of Britains last surviving travelling clown companies and were recently special guest stars on ITV's Alan Titchmarsh Show.

"We are bringing bucketfuls of fun," said Charlie Cheesecake, the show's chief laughtermaker.

"This is our first ever visit to Llantwit. The Town Hall is a beautiful historic building and we are all looking forward to performing there. We travel throughout the UK generating miles of smiles wherever we go. Beware of low flying custard pies."

Tickets are £5 available in advance from 01384 423496.

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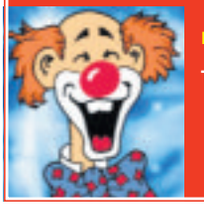
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Cwm Colhuw Reserve scrubs up!

Volunteers (left to right), Roger Sheal, Vaughn Matthews, conservation officer, WTSWW, Chris Evans, Phillip Bennington, Lorna Baggett, field assistant, WTSWW, Bernie King, Guy Ingram, volunteer warden.

Gwyneth Evans' Sculpture

THE Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales organised the final scrub clearance working party of the season, as spring is just around the corner, the hedges are starting to come into leaf, and the wild birds on the Reserve are beginning to sing and searching out nest sites.

A substantial area of blackthorn, alder and brambles has been cleared as part of the ongoing management programme to restore the natural grassland and habitats for a variety of nesting birds and the numerous butterfly and mammal species.

Visitors to the Reserve will notice that over 60 per cent of the invasive blackthorn on the Castle Ditches iron age fort has been cleared, revealing the substantial height of the 2,000 year old rampart. This will gradually regenerate and it is anticipated that the grass cover and scarce flowers that previously grew here will re-establish themselves.

During the year Gwyneth Price a sculptress from Llantwit Major and a member of the Llantwit Major Arts and Crafts Society and the Sculpture Cymru Group, used the Reserve for a 24 hour exhibition of her work. The Arts and Crafts Society have been very supportive and their members have held an exhibition last October, at St Donats Arts Centre, based on Cwm Colhuw.

If you are interested in helping the Wildlife Trust at the Cwm Colhuw Nature Reserve, or want to find out more, please contact Vaughn Matthews at: *v.matthews@welshwildlife.org*.

Guy Ingram, volunteer warden

Hunt organises Vale point-to-point meeting

THE Glamorgan Hunt recently organised its first point-to-point meeting of the year at Ystradowen.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HEATHER MARCH.

Master Jacky Thomas and Whip John Maisey lead the runners down to the start.

Gary Llewellyn of Wick's Captain Scarlet.

Threat to rural way of life...

READER'S VIEWPOINT

WITH reference to the proposed development of 62 houses in Colwinston, it has existed as a rural community for many decades; indeed the parish church of St Michael and all Angels was established in the 11th century.

Traditionally, the village was sustained by agricultural activity with the dwellings built in support of agriculture and farming.

Over the centuries, the village has expanded and has developed into a thriving community of circa 150 houses with a school, village hall and pub. However, the infrastructure of the village remains suitable only for the present number of houses and possibly an additional 15 to 20 new-builds over a period of some years.

The village has issues with regard to flooding and sewage, transport and services and any large developments would exacerbate these problems.

It appears that Colwinston, like many other Vale villages, is facing the possibility of being over-developed and its rural character shattered.

There is no objection to small scale expansion in line with the need for additional housing to be provided, but the proposal to build what can only be described as a mini housing estate on agricultural land in a rural community, flies in the face of the need to preserve our rural heritage – and is against the wishes of most people living in Colwinston and in the Vale generally.

It is a sad indictment of those we elect to serve us and represent our views that they in fact do no such thing.

The planning policy imposed on us by the Welsh government and being carried out by the Vale Council, reflects the undemocratic position that we find in 2014.

For communities to be totally disregarded over local development just cannot be allowed.

If the Vale Council approve the Redrow development in Colwinston, they will have proved conclusively that democracy in the Vale does not exist.

Gareth A Jones, Colwinston.

Novices learn rules of competitive ploughing

Picture by GLYN EVANS ffotoimage photography.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society held its practice and coaching day on Saturday, March 29 on a field in Ogmore by Sea by kind permission of Graham David of Norton Farm.

The chairman of the society, Andrew Studley, thanked David James and Alan Lucas, two well-known ploughing judges, for giving their time at the event. Martyn Huish was also thanked for supplying refreshments.

A dozen tractors and operators turned up to learn the art of ploughing, the rules of ploughing matches and what is expected of competitors. One newcomer, who had refurbished his Massey Ferguson 35, decided to purchase a Ferguson plough and turned up to have a go under instruction.

The fine weather added to the success of the event and at the end of the day everyone had gained some knowledge and experience.

Adventurer Rosie captivates festival

FOLLOWERS of the Cowbridge Book Festival were treated to an enlightening presentation last Friday, when award-winning author Rosie Thomas made a guest appearance at the United Free Church.

Rosie Thomas signing her book The Illusionist.

ABOVE: Jaci Harries welcomes Rosie Thomas (left) to the Book Festival event.

Not only is Rosie a great writer and story teller, she is also a very articulate speaker, and she quickly engaged with the large responsive audience who were clearly captivated by this very impressive woman.

She told how after her first few novels she realized that she needed to change her life to seek out new experiences for inspiration and so she turned to travel and became an avid mountaineer – climbing the Eiger on her 60th birthday.

She has worked in Antarctica, competed in the Peking to Paris car rally, recently sailed the southern ocean from the Falklands to South Georgia and then crossed the island in the footsteps of Shackleton.

All this travel has stood her in good stead. It can be no surprise that Rosie has such a loyal following, her many adventures have provided her with material for a great variety of storylines frequently based in exotic locations and described in such detail to the delight of her readers. After the presentation and a lively Q & A session, attendees had the chance to purchase signed copies of Rosie's latest book, *The Illusionists*, and enjoy a chat and a glass of wine with the author.

The next festival event will be Chris Bryant, the Shadow Minister for Borders and Immigration, presenting his new book, *Parliament – The Biography,* the story of our greatest national institution from the 14th to the 18th century, in the United Free Church on Friday, May 2.

Further information including more detail on this book is on our website www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk. Tickets are available from David Barnes (Dry cleaners) 35 High Street, Cowbridge; Nicklebys Pound Field, Llantwit Major; online from TicketlineUK or via the Festival Website, or phone Stella Cheeseman 01446 774827. **SRC**

ON THE ROAD AGAIN! ABERTHIN TRACTOR BOYS TAKE TO THE VALE FOR TY HAFAN!

ON Sunday, April 6 the 'Aberthin Tractor Boys' once more took to the Vale's roads – this time to raise funds for Ty Hafan.

The run started in Arthur John's yard in Cowbridge and took in Ystradowen, Wenvoe and – very wisely – Llanmaes and the Blacksmith's Arms.

Around 25 tractors took part and £700 raised.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting: *ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk*
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Man admitted burglary of his friend's house

Report by AJ SICLUNA

A BRIDGEND householder felt "betrayed" when a close friend and compatriot deliberately targeted his home and raided it when he was on holiday.

Wojciech Grzywaczewski (28) Pen-y-Waun Road, Cardiff, admitted charges of burglary and taking a vehicle without consent.

He was jailed for two years and disqualified from driving for two years.

At the time of the offences, the court heard, he was living in Bridgend.

Judge Patrick Curran told him: "These were mean offences. You burgled the home of someone who had been your friend for many years. You took valuable property and there was a high degree of culpability."

Prosecutor Gareth James said the house was raided in Longacre, Brackla, on April 29, the home of Artur Buszkiewicz.

The defendant and the householder had known each other for four years. They worked together at Coney Beach fairground and were very good friends.

Mr Buszkiewicz lived at the address with a partner and before going on holiday, cleaned the property thoroughly and left a VW Passat on the drive.

A neighbour, who was keeping an eye on the property, noticed the vehicle was missing and soon after spotted a broken window.

The matter was reported to the police and when the couple returned, they found property worth about £4,000 had been stolen.

The police had received a report that the car was in the possession of a number of drunken men and was spotted swerving across the road at Ogmore by Sea, before hitting a kerb.

The three were arrested, including the defendant, who accepted he was driving and at the time was disqualified. He denied being involved in the burglary.

In a victim impact statement, Mr Buszkiewicz said he felt betrayed by a man who knew all the details of his life and used the information to steal his property.

His solicitor, Derek Gooden, said: "The offences were committed at a low period in his personal life."

PACT meetings

COWBRIDGE PACT *at Cowbridge Fire Station, on Monday April 14 at 11am.*

ILLTYD PACT *at Tesco, Highlight Park, on Thursday, April 17 at 2.45pm.*

COFFEE AND CHAT *at The Six Bells, Penmark, on Tuesday April 22 at 11am.*

COFFEE AND CHAT *at The Red Fox, Penllyn, on Wednesday, April 23 at 11am.*

ST AUGUSTINE PACT *at The Windsor Arms public house on Wednesday, April 23 at 7pm.*

BARUC PACT *at the Mount Sorrel Hotel on Thursday, April 24 at 6.30pm.*

VALE 'YOUTH CABINET' IS ELECTED

PICTURED: (left to right) back row: Coun Edward Williams, Coun Rob Curtis, Coun Neil Moore, Coun Chris Elmore, Coun Stuart Egan. Front row: Jessica Peters, Ellis Rosser, Candy Srinivas Tom Chandler, Emme Srinivas, Nicolas Want, Emily Peters.

THE official inauguration of the first ever Vale of Glamorgan Youth Cabinet took place on March 31.

At the event, the seven successful candidates were announced and officially inducted into their new roles.

The members of this first Youth Cabinet are: Tom Chandler, Emily Peters, Jessica Peters, Ellis Rosser, Candy Srinivas, Emme Srinivas and Niclas Want.

They will represent the views of their peers to the political leadership of the council.

The successful candidates were announced by Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Council, who said: "I am delighted that the council has another channel through which young people in the Vale can have an input into decisions that may affect them. I would like to congratulate and thank all the young people who took part in this election and I hope that everyone will continue to work with us as a council, whether or not they were elected to the Youth Cabinet. I look forward to all of them being pro-active in the future."

All members of the Vale Youth Forum were able to stand for election for the Youth Cabinet. Seventeen young people did so at an event held on March 24 and each presented their manifesto to forum members in a bid to win the votes of their contemporaries. Seven Youth Cabinet members were elected to work with the council's cabinet.

Vale vet 'retires' after 37 years

AFTER 37 years at Park Vets, Vale-based veterinary surgeon, Allen Brown, retired last week, since qualifying in 1977 he has developed a particular expertise in the treatment of horses.

Forty members of the practice, including four retired partners, celebrated Allen's career at the Fox and Hounds in Llancarfan on his last working day. He was presented with a watch – an irony not lost on many of our clients – and he entertained everyone with stories about some of his memorable cases.

Allen is not retiring from equine work, however, and is continuing to work out of his Dinas Powys base at the Argae Stables.

Julie Stenner

VALEWAYS WALKS

ON Wednesday, April 10 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

On Sunday, April 20 at 2pm, The Bonvilston south circular walk starts at the Red Lion car park, Bonvilston. On Wednesday, April 23 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at the visitor centre, Cosmeston Country Park. On Thursday, April 24 at 2pm, 'Coastal footpath and golden stairs', starting at Porthkerry Country park cafe car park.

Entries sought for wildlife awards

THE annual Vale Biodiversity Partnership 'Awards for Wildlife' competition is once again open for entries.

The competition, which has now been running for almost a decade, aims to reward the schools, colleges, education centres and children's groups that are doing their bit to look after our Vale wildlife.

A council spokesperson said: "All practical projects, no matter however big or small, are eligible and even projects that are 'under construction' will be considered."

The competition runs until Wednesday, April 30. Winners will receive £250, a framed certificate and trophy kindly donated by RWE Npower Aberthaw, which will be presented during the Grand Parade at the Vale of Glamorgan Show. There are also prizes of £100 and £50 for second and third places.

For more information about the Awards for Wildlife and to obtain an entry pack, contact Andrea Rowe on 01446 704631 or email ecology@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

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The Glamorgan GEM BRINSONS CHARTERED SURVEYORS

Brinsons Fairfax Estate Agents have used the GEM since August 2013 to advertise their properties to our Vale readers.

John Coggins, Head of Residential Sales, said "Since advertising in the Cowbridge GEM and Llantwit Major GEM, we have seen a noticeable increase in new instructions. The GEM coverage has helped us to establish ourselves as Estate Agents in Cowbridge".

For Cowbridge businesses requiring more information on how The GEM can help you, call Kathryn Jones on 01446 774484 or E-Mail: kathryn.jones@tindlenews.co.uk

Looking forward to more 'powers for a purpose'

WITH unemployment now lower in Wales than any other part of the United Kingdom and new fiscal powers on their way to Wales, there will undoubtedly be new prospects for the Vale of Glamorgan as part of the reviving Welsh economy in 2014.

This will benefit businesses, communities and all those who are securing employment, particularly in higher skilled jobs.

The success of the Welsh Government's Jobs Growth Wales programme is undoubtedly contributing to the drop in youth unemployment with over 300 young people benefiting from the programme in the Vale.

There is a high level of progression of young people in this 16 – 24 year old scheme into sustainable jobs from the initial six-month work placements offered by employers.

As well as Jobs Growth Wales, GO Wales (Graduate Opportunities) is also making a difference with both schemes backed by the European Social Fund. We also see the success of the doubling of provision in our Welsh Government investment in apprenticeships – also backed by Europe – again benefiting many young graduates in the Vale of Glamorgan.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by **Jane Hutt AM** *(Minister for Finance)*

All over Wales, employers have been saying to me – please keep your investment in Jobs Growth Wales and Go Wales because we are now employing outstanding young people who we are keeping on as a result of their skills and experience.

As well as investing in skills and jobs for our young people, we are boosting business with a Wales Retail Relief Scheme announced by Edwina Hart AM, the minister for economy, science and transport last week, which will provide a targeted fund to meet local needs as a result of the postponement of revaluation until 2017.

The Wales Retail Scheme provides a discount of £1,000 on the yearly business rates bill for all occupied retail properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or less in 2014 – 15, subject to state aid limits.

As the minister said in her statement to the Assembly, the introduction of this £11.5m scheme responds to the findings of the Business Task and Finish Group she set up, which recognised that the retail sector is changing and that targeted support could be helpful.

Properties that will benefit from the relief will be occupied businesses with rateable values of £50,000 or less, that are wholly or mainly being used for retail – such as shops, restaurants and cafes.

In addition, £3.5m is being made available to local authorities to support local business need and support businesses that contribute to local or regional economic development.

This announcement follows the recent action we have taken as a Welsh Government, to extend Small Business Rate Relief and cap the business rates multiplier, injecting money into the Welsh economy – all good news for the Vale of Glamorgan.

Alongside these announcements we are preparing for our new fiscal powers as a result of the Wales Bill, published on March 20, which will enable us to borrow to invest in infrastructure, as well as devolve and reform Stamp Duty Land Tax and Landfill Tax.

In April 2015, Non Domestic Rates will also be fully devolved to the Welsh Government.

All these developments, which we welcome, will give us more 'powers for a purpose' in supporting growth and jobs in Wales.

'Predatory' offender used Facebook to contact a teenager

A young sex offender has been described as "manipulative and predatory" by a judge at Cardiff Crown Court, *writes AJ SICLUNA*.

Daniel Lloyd, 21, of West Avenue, Cefn Cribwr, admitted 11 charges of making indecent photographs of a child. He also pleaded guilty to possessing indecent photographs of a child and inciting a child to engage in sexual activity.

The case, the court heard, involved a girl of 13 who lived in London and who Lloyd had contacted via Facebook.

Recorder Paul Lewis, QC, said "A pre-sentence report indicates that this man presents a risk of serious harm to children.

"I regard his behaviour as highly manipulative and predatory."

Potentially, said the Recorder, he could fall into the category of being a dangerous offender.

He said that Lloyd realised the girl involved was of low self-esteem and a carer for her mother.

He said there had been threats from Lloyd and the acts he had required her to perform were of a gross kind.

Said the Recorder: "She has suffered serious emotional damage."

Lloyd, he continued, had carried out a campaign, knowing the girl was vulnerable.

Sentence was adjourned on Lloyd for six weeks for a psychiatric report. He was decribed as being of limited intelligence, and released on conditional bail.

VALE COUNCIL ADOPTS AN ANIMAL WELFARE CHARTER

THE Vale Council has become the first council in South Wales to adopt an animal welfare charter.

It supports the view that all animals have a right to a life free from cruel treatment and unnecessary suffering. It recognises that animals are capable of feeling, of enjoying a state of wellbeing but are also capable of suffering.

The council's cabinet was due to adopt the charter at this week's meeting at the Civic offices in Barry.

The Leader of the council, Coun Neil Moore said: "The council promotes the responsible ownership of pets and high standards of animal welfare at pet shops, on farms, during transport and at livestock markets.

"The council's approach to animal welfare has evolved over time taking into account welfare guidance. However, the approach involving numerous services has never been documented in one place."

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SAY HELLO TO TIA!

TIA is a lovely five-year-old Staffy. She is very friendly, adores people, and will pick out new friends for a good fuss and belly rub.

She really enjoys her walks, which is helping her to lose a little bit of extra weight, alongside a diet. She loves her toys, and will happily play all day.

She has been undersocialised with other dogs, which will need to be kept an eye on –

Dogs Trust will give all help and advice for this.

She would like to live with someone who has owned Staffies before, and can live with children of around 8+. Tia really is a fab dog, and with her striking looks, you can't help but fall in love with her!

If you have room in your home for Tia, please call us on 01656 725219 or pop along to Dogs Trust Bridgend. We are open 12noon – 4pm every day except Monday, with late night opening til 7.30pm on Wednesdays, beginning on April 9.

LINDA FEAGAN

The 'old lady of Holly cottage Pentre Meurig' passes on... AT THE AGE OF 22!

GEM readers have recently written in regarding the longevity of their pets and Caron Macgregor-Jones has now got in touch to tell us about Charly, the family sheep dog, the old lady of Holly cottage in Pentre Meurig.

Caron said: "Charly, our beautiful old lady, passed away in her sleep on March 29, aged 22 years.

"She was a much-loved family companion to me, my husband Peter, and daughter Holly.

"She was born in February 1992 and well known as a Pentre Meurig character in her youth.

"She faced her advancing years with good humour and fortitude, learning to live with her occasionally noisy and badly-trained companions of the human kind without complaint.

"Charly was loved, and will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her."

ABOVE: Charly lived to the venerable age of 22 years old.

Pupils' talent night

THERE will be a performing arts faculty showcase at Barry Comprehensive School to raise funds for Sri Lanka this evening (Thursday, April 10)

The pupils are presenting 'stage and screen', songs and music from theatre and film. Doors open at 6.30pm; admission, adults £3, children £2.

Yesterday pupils performed excerpts from plays used for recent GCSE and A level practicals.

'Mynewhair' links up with Macmillan cancer charity

MACMILLAN Cancer Support and *mynewhair* are launching an innovative new partnership to help reach and improve the lives of people affected by cancer.

mynewhair' is a charity dedicated to supporting individuals with medical hair loss.

Founded by renowned hairdresser, Trevor Sorbie MBE, it is a network of trained hair professionals who provide advice and wig cutting services to people who have lost their hair after cancer, and training for hairdressers who wish to offer the service in their salons.

From today, the two organisations will work together to signpost people affected by cancer to each other's vital services.

Anyone who comes to Macmillan seeking advice on hair and wig services will be provided with the name and contact details of their local *mynewhair* service.

In return *mynewhair* hairdressers will direct any clients in need of advice and support to Macmillan's helpline and advice services.

Trevor Sorbie said: "I am thrilled about the new partnership of *mynewhair* and Macmillan Cancer Support.

I have always had great respect and admiration for the work that Macmillan does, and now far more ladies who can benefit from the wig customisation service that *mynewhair* offers, will be made aware of it through the vast Macmillan support network."

For further information about mynewhair *visit www.mynewhair.org or email info@mynewhair.org. Hairdressers wishing to book a place on a* mynewhair *training course should contact the L'Oréal Academy in London on 0208 762 4200 or send an email to intacademy@uk.loreal.com. For cancer information or support, call 0808 808 00 00 or visit www.macmillan.org.uk/carers.*

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FoE battle the developers

THE Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth met in the Castle Hotel last week and were joined by concerned residents from HOPE in the Vale and shocked residents from the Laburnum Close area of Gibbonsdown.

We will be supporting HOPE in the Vale, as they take on would-be housing developers at the Bryn Hill Golf Club, just as we will be supporting other groups who are concerned over the crazy green field house building proposals – from Cog Moors in Sully, to Ystradowen and Bonvilston in the rural Vale.

The time for a new town on Llandow's brown field areas, has never been clearer. If a 'New Town' were to be developed, sustainably planned to the highest environmental standards, not just left up to the greedy green field developers, then many of the developments now proposed, would not be necessary.

Gibbonsdown and Merthyr Dyfan residents invited the FoE group to see the work the Vale Council have undertaken on the Long Meadow, the only field left in their area.

Virtually all of the trees and bushes in the meadow have been razed to the ground in preparation for a lagoon which is supposed to avoid the monsoon type flooding which occurred in 2007.

This is at least a recognition that we can expect more extreme weather events and flooding, as the Climate Change Panel told us, last week.

Barry and Vale FoE are concerned that flooding will continue in this area when the White Farm development is completed and the stream is culverted.

The FoE group are working with residents to look at possible planning irregularities and to demand that trees are returned to the Long Meadow.

Trees, after all, absorb water and prevent flooding.

We will also be working with the concerned residents, to see that the meadow is restored to its previous natural and biodiverse condition,

KEITH STOCKDALE
Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth co-ordinator

TREE PLANTING MARKS THE WI's 90th BIRTHDAY!

RIGHT: Mrs Carolyn Davies, the Glamorgan County Chairman, completes the planting.

ON a sunny afternoon in March, members of the GFWI board of trustees arrived at Margam Country Park where they were met by head gardener, Mr Gary Lovelock.

He walked the ladies to a site near the magnificent glasshouse where the citrus fruits were growing and proceeded to dig a large hole for the Princess or foxglove tree, Paulownia tomentosa, which was being planted to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the GFWI. In May, the tree will produce sweetly-scented foxglove-like flowers.

'People with sight loss need to be supported'

– SAYS COMMISSIONER

THE Older People's Commissioner for Wales' team discussed a range of issues, including the importance of community transport and talking messages on buses for people living with sight loss, during an event in Cardiff last week.

Sarah Rochira's team joined the monthly meeting of the Macular Group, which meets at the Cardiff Institute for the Blind's headquarters at Womanby Street in the city.

Twenty people with macular degeneration from around Cardiff and the Vale attend the group in total, with the oldest member aged 93.

Group members talked about the importance of protecting community transport services from cuts as they provide opportunities for people living with sight loss to travel to and attend social clubs.

They also discussed the need to have talking messages on public buses to help them get around, as well as the difficulties they have experienced while trying to book an appointment with their GP. The engagement followed a visit to the Barry Blind Club, which meets every Tuesday at Jerusalem Church in the town.

Around 20 people get together to socialise, plan trips and provide support to each other, enjoying tea and cakes, along with a weekly raffle.

Sarah Rochira said: "As we grow older as a nation, we need to fundamentally rethink how we design and plan our communities. Age supportive communities and accessible environments, particularly for people with conditions such as sight loss, must now be prioritised."

£25 GEM FACEBOOK PRIZE

Our GEM Facebook winner for April 3 is:

Janet Allen

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM. The answer was:

BON JOVI

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

The competition runs every week throughout 2014 with a potential prize fund of £1,150.

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Out and About with The GEM

Isobel's Oscar win

THE lucky winner of our GEM competition, in association with Oscar's of Cowbridge, is Isobel Stevens, who chose her favourite meal of Mini Meatballs, Pasta Sauce and Garlic Bread.

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• See future editions of The GEM as Isobel and her family enjoy their meal at Oscar's.

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NOAH WILL DIVIDE AUDIENCES

…but Screen Talk's verdict is a positive one!

WITH the terrible weather of February in mind, there were no doubt many who were expecting Noah and his ark to show up at some point.

Well, two months on from that wet weather debacle, he finally shows up, albeit on the big screen, in *Noah*.

Russell Crowe plays the titular character, who is suffering from visions of an apocalyptic event; he rounds up his family and begins to build an ark with the aim of saving his family, but a few animals, and some agitated locals (led by Ray Winstone), soon mean Noah faces a battle against his environment as much as nature...

While the early part of the century saw Hollywood fully embrace the concept of the biblical epic, recent years have seen it become something of a maligned genre, with only Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ* really putting its head above the parapet.

by **GARETH JAMIESON**
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

The fact that film showed there was an audience for this type of movie (albeit one perhaps steeped more in gore-based curiosity than religious fervour) means studios would be a little more keen to bring the biblical epic back.

Noah is most certainly epic, a grandiose effort with an astounding scale that certainly doesn't scrimp on spectacle; how much of the 'biblical' part it fills is for someone with a far greater interest in the contents of the Bible to decide.

Director Darren Aronofsky is not cut from your traditional cloth, his films a morbid, sometimes horrific look at life under a microscope, but one who has never attempted a film on such a stage as this one.

That he manages to deliver something so large but maintaining his darker touches is appealing, the film more than simply a primary coloured retelling of a story; instead it focuses as much on the psychological impact of a man receiving what he believes are visions from God and the lengths he will go to ensure these visions are made real, no matter what the cost to either his family or humanity, mixed with a dash of disaster movie panache.

While there are grandstanding moments of ambition, cameras swooping out and showing just how big an undertaking the ark is, there are also moments of Aronofsky racheting up the horror, the cities of sin lit up with hellish reds and no little peril.

This gives a little more depth to proceedings than a simple 'Noah built an ark and then it rained' story that would have felt redundant and lacking.

Aronofsky and co-writer Ari Handel aren't afraid to take a different tack from their source material in places, with one sequence in particular showing the apparent evolution of man and angels trapped as rock monsters, seemingly at odds with the biblical source material; but Aronosfky is more a man of science than a man of faith, and while this may court disfavour with some, filmically it makes for a better proposition.

The film is anchored superbly by Russell Crowe, who seems be favouring more stoic roles of late, and who manages to convey the psychological and physical pressure Noah is under with an appealing turn.

As the film moves from being a race against time drama to a piece showing the mental unravelling of a man, Crowe's performance excels.

Alongside, the performances vary – Jennifer Connelly doesn't offer much as his wife, Anthony Hopkins plays himself in make-up as Noah's grandfather, while the young triumvirate of Douglas Booth, Logan Lerman and Emma Watson offer decent turns for characters whose subplots are cleverly woven into the story.

Noah is certainly going to divide opinion, a polarising film whose ability to deliver will be based as much on filmic taste as religious belief, but there is much to savour in a film that is so unafraid to revel in its scope and subject matter.

VERDICT: A film that is likely to polarise opinion in every way, *Noah* is a entertaining blockbuster, made by a director who ploughs his own furrow in unfamiliar territory. While its theology may frustrate (and maybe even anger), its glorious bombast makes it a thrilling prospect. *Recommended*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Passion of the Christ* (2004), *The Day After Tomorrow* (2004).

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06/5/2014	Tuesday	Abergavenny Market	£9.95	£9.50
10/5/2014	Saturday	Malvern Spring Gardening Show (Coach Only)	£11.50	£10.50
17/5/2014	Saturday	London Flyer, Sights or London Show (Coach Only)	£15.50	£15.00
24/5/2014	Saturday	Drayton Manor (Coach Only)	£14.00	£13.00
26/5/2014	Monday	Oakwood Park or Folly Farm (Coach Only)	£9.50	£9.00
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Row breaks out over funding in Vale schools

by TIM CHAPMAN

THE Vale Council has refuted claims from an opposition councillor that secondary schools in the area could be facing financial problems later this year.

Plaid Cymru councillor Chris Franks called on the council to reveal the financial situation facing schools and what he termed "the shocking disclosure that most secondary schools this year will face major financial problems".

But Vale Leader Neil Moore said Coun Franks was "confused", and Coun Elmore, the cabinet member responsible for schools, claimed it was a case of "misleading the public".

Coun Chris Franks told The GEM that it was alarming that five of the Vale secondary schools had been allocated reductions in funding.

He said: "This was not disclosed at the budget debate in the Vale Council when Labour forced through a 4.5 per cent council tax hike.

"In fact we were told that there would be additional resources due to the 'Pupil Deprivation Grant' allocated by the Welsh Government.

"This increased the amount of funding 'per relevant pupil' from £450 to £918, which for some schools meant an extra £200,000."

JOB LOSSES?

Coun Franks said: "Much of this extra cash was due to Plaid Cymru in the Assembly insisting that extra funds went to schools.

"I understand that despite this grant increase that one comprehensive school has lost around £200,000 even after Welsh Government additional grants.

"It is facing compulsory redundancies or at least voluntary job losses. Another option is not to replace staff but all this can have a devastating impact on the curriculum of the school. Clearly none of this will assist in providing a decent education.

"Given recent school inspection reports we should be increasing investment in education. With the second year of high council tax rises, surely schools should not be confronted with such difficulties.

"Parents need to know how the Vale intends to help their children," he insisted.

The GEM put the Coun Franks's remarks to the Vale Council.

Coun Chris Elmore, the cabinet member for children's services, said he rejected the comments.

"As Coun Franks knows, the Labour-Llantwit First administration has increased funding for schools for the second year running and it has also honoured the Welsh Government's funding commitment to schools.

"Furthermore the administration, again for the second year running, is funding education and schools higher than the Indicator Based Assessment (IBA).

"We have, therefore, prioritised funding for education and schools, but Coun Franks is misleading the public on the funding being provided by the council to schools across the Vale."

He explained: "The council has no control over pupil numbers and cannot control where children go to school. The funding, as Coun Franks knows full well, is allocated to schools on a per pupil basis.

"It is also a fact that pupil numbers in the comprehensive sector are down. It is somewhat disappointing that Coun Franks is playing politics with school funding, but the reality is that as a council we are funding schools higher than the previous administration."

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale Council, said he thought Coun Franks was "confused".

"He refers to the 'Pupil Depravation Grant' as if this grant is available to all schools.

"The grant is allocated to schools based on the actual take up of free school meals in each school.

"If there are low numbers of free school meals in a school they would not be allocated any Pupil Depravation Grant and he should be aware of that.

"I also believe that this was not a Plaid Cymru initiative but one agreed with the Welsh Labour Government and the Liberal Democrats in the Assembly.

"It is my understanding that Plaid Cymru did agree a budget with Welsh Government this year along with the Lib Dems. What Plaid brought to the table was the Intermediate Care Funding arrangements and therefore Coun Franks is again misleading people."

Coun Moore added: "In relation to a school having reduced funding, I assume he is referring to St Cyres School, where he is a governor.

"He should be aware that the new school has a lower number of pupils on role and therefore the funding formula would be reduced accordingly."

Ty Hafan lottery winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D821.

£2,000: 117496.

The rollover, which now stands at £9,000, was not won this week.

£10: 624078, 208725, 332346, 852592, 119080, 491730, 890694, 863473, 447967, 297215, 370510, 520305, 596548, 589055, 843703, 641521, 666554, 773073, 521712, 520809.

£5: 859209, 493489, 262660, 788403, 771974, 797840, 404630, 421452, 653302, 805808, 285571, 616259, 595543, 256093, 535765, 638589, 884548, 453001, 209914, 203085, 437883, 842775, 696734, 754526, 894913, 760243, 771124, 918931, 881318, 803555, 694787, 742473, 209837, 576735, 585342, 347517, 355889, 834223, 117601, 199325, 773787, 396140, 915574, 821812, 582226, 880583, 289136, 760374, 286488, 359809, 929300, 126106, 165923, 933898, 898343, 469878, 794294, 394532, 770209, 943.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Bridgend Male Choir (and Mike Doyle) bring the house down

FRIDAY night at Cowbridge Leisure Centre saw a full house attendance for a variety show with a difference – for opening the entertainment were the organisers, Bridgend Male Choir, resplendent in brand new blazers, with Italian to the fore in Ernani's 'Bandits Chorus'.

Mike Doyle.

Jodi Bird (singer), Rhiannon Williams-Hale (musical director) and Stephanie Bailey (accompanist)

Some choristers before the start.

This was followed with 'Pan Fo'r Nos Yn Hir', forever associated with the late Ryan Davies; the upbeat, 'Amen' and a favourite Welsh hymn tune, 'Gwahoddiad'.

Musical director, Rhiannon Williams-Hale can be very proud of her charges, whose eyes were transfixed on her as if they might miss the slightest thing.

Young entertainer, Jodi Bird next took to the concert stage and opened with 'Lullabye – Goodnight My Angel' setting a perfect introduction to her talent. 'Cry Me A River' followed, showing her wide voice range and lovely tone. 'The Girl from 14G' never made it to *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and Jodi's performance of the number was exceptional for a 16-year -old.

The choir returned with 'Portrait of My Love', made famous by Matt Monro and then a number by singing contemporary, Louis Armstrong with a nice arrangement of 'What A Wonderful World'.

The foot tapping, Russian folk song, 'Casatchok' came next, with some body movements in the final verse adding punch to its delivery.

The next item saw the singing talent of soloist Paul Carter, whose voice was made for 'Bui Doi' from the musical, *Miss Saigon*. Accompanist Stephanie Bailey had not seen this item until a week ago, but you would never have thought so. Her accompaniment throughout was exceptional, including the joint items with Mike Doyle.

The first of these, 'Calon Lan' saw top of the bill, Mike Doyle, join the choir on stage to a huge, rip-roaring welcome from the 500-strong audience – and boy did he deserve it. He had all those seated in raptures with his singing, humorous stories and silly faces.

Carmarthen-born Bridgend resident Mike was on top form, enjoying repartee with individual audience members, many of whom had travelled many miles to see this performance with the choir. His Tom Jones and Shirley Bassey especially were tremendous and 'Nessun Dorma' with the choir brought the whole place to its feet. He gave everything and everybody joined in 'I'm a Believer', dancing in the aisles and clapping joyfully.

Post-concert feedback has been excellent and a big thank you is extended to the people of the Vale, Cowbridge, Bridgend and surrounding areas for buying tickets. It's likely to be repeated, keep an eye on https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bridgend-Male-Choir/444632492241476

DAVID T BURT

'ManVan visits Barry

IN partnership with Prostate Cancer UK and Movember, Tenovus has recently launched the 'ManVan', a dedicated cancer support vehicle for men with prostate or testicular cancer.

The 'ManVan' will be coming to Barry Island on Tuesday, April 15 and will be located on the Promenade from 10am.

People can drop in for a tour of the ManVan and to find out what support is available to them throughout the day.

High Street Easter bonnet parade

THE High Street easter bonnet parade takes place on Saturday, April 19.

It starts at Habanas, High Street, Barry at 10.30am for procession along High Street before returning to Habanas for the judging.

All ages and bonnets most welcome.

Welcome to Cowbridge

The elegant market town at the heart of the Rural Vale

Advertising feature created to show what Cowbridge and the surrounding area has to offer this spring.

TOWN OVERFLOWS WITH 'GREAT VALUE, GOOD SERVICE – AND HIGH QUALITY'

THE recent milder weather has finally convinced people in the Vale that spring is on the way.

It is a time of year when Cowbridge shares that sense of anticipation, because good weather really shows the town off to its best advantage.

For the coffee shops – and pubs with beer gardens – it means that customers can finally enjoy their refreshment al fresco, instead of staying indoors out of the cold wind or incessant drizzle.

Warmer weather also means that you can do your shopping the Cowbridge way. This means wandering around the town, checking out all the alleyways and discovering surprising little speciality shops.

Spend an hour browsing in Cowbridge and the hustle and bustle of a city centre or out-of-town retail park seems a world away.

The Vale Council's town centre framework – a strategy designed to give each town in the Vale its own unique selling point – sees Cowbridge as a 'destination'.

That means somewhere that visitors come to for shopping, to dine out, and as somewhere to stay, given its proximity to the capital city, as well as its place in the heart of the rural Vale.

It is, after all, the best example of a market town in Glamorgan, and the livestock market, busy every Tuesday, is a day when the rural Vale and beyond come to town – keeping it in touch with its roots.

Cowbridge tends to attract attention whenever a national newspaper or estate agent does a house price survey, as the town frequently gets a mention at the top end of the market.

However, it would be a big mistake to jump to the conclusion that shopping is in the same expensive bracket.

Competition drives all market places these days, and Cowbridge shops know they have to offer a good deal, to go along with the good service that you get when the owner of the business spends time behind the counter.

It's reassuring to know that in Cowbridge, there is still a high proportion of shops that are unique, with only a few of the usual high street suspects!

Of course, what you will get in so many cases – to back up that good deal – is products that you won't find anywhere else. Many of the owner/managers source their own products, and take great pride in doing so.

If you are looking for something distinctive, that is different from the chain store staple, then you will find it in Cowbridge – not just in one shop, but in many – and they are all contained in a comparatively small area. You can also combine your day with some quality relaxation, because the town has all you could possibly ask for when it comes to taking a rest.

Whether you prefer a coffee shop, a pub, a restaurant, or a tapas bar – the town is overflowing with places that offer great value, good service, and high quality.

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Home of Stella

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Every entrant also benefits from a £10 voucher for services and treatments in our Beauty Rooms. T&C apply. The winner will be chosen by The GEM. Winner will need to come to the salon for a colour patch test at least 48 hours in advance. Over 18s only due to colour and makeup application. Winner must give permission for before and after photographs to be published.

Entry Form - Please include a photograph

Name of nominee _____

Your name _____

Nominee contact telephone number _____

Briefly tell us why the nominee is deserving of a Fich + Ramous makeover? _____

Post your entry to Fich & Ramous Competition, The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL. Email entry to *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* or like Glamorgan GEM and comment on the competition post.

Entries must be received by Friday 18th April 2014.

Our Last Winner

Before and After photos of Lesley Midlane!
This look would typically cost:

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- Full Makeover with our 'ELF' Make-up Artist Chloe - **£22**
- Gelish Manicure - **£28**
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Welcome to Cowbridge

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Advertising feature created to show what Cowbridge and the surrounding area has to offer this spring.

CELEBRATE YOUR LOCAL YARN SHOP

CRAFTING has never been so popular. As increasing numbers of people turn their creative passion to needles and hooks, yarn stores are often the first port of call for novice knitters and experienced yarn crafters alike.

Leading publications, *Let's Get Crafting* and *Let's Knit* have now joined forces with yarn stores across Britain to launch the Love Your Yarn Shop campaign.

One of the outlets taking part is La Mercerie, whose owner Jean Tait says: "Knitting and crochet are more popular than ever, and this campaign is the perfect way in which to celebrate all those stores which stock yarn and needles, hooks and patterns, as well as offering crafters advice and inspiration.

"Our shop has been selling yarn and haberdashery for four years, and we really have noticed an increased number of people coming into the shop and asking about crochet and knitting.

" We are always happy to offer advice, and I think our customers really appreciate this aspect of visiting their local store."

The campaign will conclude with Yarn Shop Day on May 3, which will see retailers putting on a series of events.

For more information, visit www.letsknit.co.uk.

La Mercerie will be featuring the work of two local ladies, Lynne Tuck who knits and crochets beautiful gossamer fine shawls and tablecloths; and Cat Thomas, who recently had her first book published, 'Fifty Pincushions to Knit and Crochet'.

La Mercerie
Hand Knitting Yarns

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Children's week of woolly jumping!

CHILDREN and staff at Fun Foundations Day Nursery took part in a week of fundraising.

The theme for the week was 'Woolly Jumpers', so everybody wore a variety of woolly jumpers, scarfs and hats and there were lots of 'jumping' activities taking place throughout the nursery.

Parents sponsored their children throughout the week and staff took part in a 'sheep stake' – the total raised was £449! This was only made possible with the help of Jane Griffiths, the charity events coordinator at Fun Foundation, and the kind generosity of all the parents who sponsored their child.

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A closer look at Cowbridge...

ABOVE: Cowbridge is a historical town world famous for its Physic Garden which has welcomed royal visitors.

The town is famed for its high street.

Delicatessen gears up for Easter!

ON the Cowbridge High Street, the wonderfully-named Elephant & Bun delicatessen is gearing up for Easter.

Director Jack Farrington has recently returned from the national Deli and Farm Shop exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham with some great new gift ideas, including grow your own mushroom kits and make your own cheese kits.

He said: "The show was exceptional and really gives delis such as ours a host of new ideas that help keep the shop fresh and interesting for existing and new customers.

"We have put a mushroom block in the window so that customers can watch them grow over the coming weeks and watch as we use the crop in our quiches, which are made fresh daily.

"We are also looking to stock some new independently-produced Welsh bottled beers to add to our current range of Otley, Purple Moose and Wrexham Lager."

The deli has also stocked up for Easter on the exquisite range of kitchen pottery by Rupert Blamire, who has developed a big following.

With more than 30 Welsh and continental cheeses to choose from, Jack's message is clear: "The High Street has something to offer for discerning shoppers this Easter. Pop in and I'll talk through our cheeses and encourage you to try before you buy."

Daisy & Jack bring the parties to you

DAISY & JACK'S 'Mummy and Me' was a great afternoon.

The fashion show saw the models strutting their stuff in labels such as Scotch Shrunk and R'Belle, Ralph Lauren, I Love Gorgeous, No Added Sugar and IKKS.

Bubbles and goodie bags were enjoyed by our guests and our fab raffle, featuring prizes from Stella & Dot and Daisy & Jack, raised £70 for Ty Hafan, our chosen charity.

Our fashion parade up the length of the High Street was huge fun, and we even took it into a couple of stores and restaurants.

If you can't come to the party, Daisy & Jack will bring it to you!

ND

The pencil case

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Welcome to Cowbridge

The elegant market town at the heart of the Rural Vale

Cowbridge's newest shop 'The Pencil Case' opens

THERE was a real buzz on Eastgate recently when Cowbridge's newest shop was opened in a blaze of bright colours!

The Pencil Case sells a fabulous range of fun and stylish stationery, alongside local school uniform and dancewear for Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Y Bont Faen Primary School, St David's C/W Primary School in Colwinston, The Vale School of Dance and The Moya Vahey School of Russian Classical Ballet.

Created by Colwinston resident and mum of two, Sally Stephenson, The Pencil Case was developed mainly with primary and secondary school-aged children in mind.

She explained: "I love stationery, as do my two young children and their friends, but there was nowhere in Cowbridge selling stylish pens and notebooks for adults and pocket money priced stationery for children – we had to go all the way into Cardiff.

"When I asked around, I realised that there was a real opportunity to open a lovely, independent stationery shop – something I have always wanted to do."

When Jensen Sports decided to close down at Christmas, it seemed logical to take over the supply of local school uniform and dancewear and offer this alongside the new stationery range.

The launch of The Pencil Case has been eagerly anticipated by many, especially those who had watched with interest as the shop was transformed over the last few weeks.

Judging by the large number of people who attended the grand opening, there is clearly a need for stylish stationery, and local parents are delighted that school uniform and dancewear is still conveniently available in the centre of Cowbridge.

The Pencil Case is open from Monday to Saturday at 50 Eastgate – follow on Facebook at ThePencilCaseCowbridge and on Twitter at @ThePencilCaseCo.

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Win family tickets to Disney on Ice Worlds of Fantasy!

THE GEM has joined forces with Feld Entertainment, producers of Disney On Ice, to give four lucky families the perfect gift – tickets to the brand new show, Worlds of Fantasy.

Showing at Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena from April 23-27, the on-ice excitement begins when Mickey Mouse embarks on an adventurous journey with Minnie Mouse to uncover each world of fantasy, but the plan goes awry when their cherry red roadster unexpectedly breaks down.

Although Donald Duck and Goofy try, it takes the assistance of the coolest Cars on the ice to get the pistons firing again.

Mickey and Minnie's 'road trip' continues by diving into Ariel's fluorescent, coral-covered world in The Little Mermaid and into the colourful fantasy land of Disney's Fairies for the Tinkerbell segment.

Winners will enjoy the perfect family outing, revelling in all of the classic Disney moments at this mesmerizing show.

For the chance to win tickets for a family of four to the show, answer the following question:

- *Who will be setting out on an adventurous journey?*

Entries on a postcard to: 'Disney competition', The Glamorgan GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL; or email to: gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk (Please include your full contact details).

Closing date is April 17. Normal competition rules apply and no correspondence will be entered into.

For more information about Disney On Ice presents Worlds of Fantasy, visit www.disneyonice.co.uk

Live a life of adventure

by MARIA LEIJERSTAM

DOUBLE world record holder Maria Leijerstam from the Vale of Glamorgan, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events and qualified personal trainer, will inspire you with a weekly column on simple family sporting adventures in the beautiful countryside of south Wales.

Maria will guide you on how and where in your area you can combine sport and fitness into family fun.

Set your goals!

EVERYONE has days where motivation is lacking. The weather is bad, time is short or you just can't make yourself take that first step to doing something physical. Well, this is where having a goal will help.

As you roll out of bed one morning this week, to a house full of youngsters running around and demanding more from you, how about this? On your way home from the school run, stop off at Cowbridge Common. Pull out a pair of trainers for you and one for your child and lay down a challenge to see who can run one lap of the common the fastest.

It's as simple as that and at only 1.2 kilometres, will take you less than ten minutes. Don't worry about getting a little dirty, it's all part of the adventure.

It's guaranteed to lift your spirit as well as teach your child the importance of setting targets and experiencing competition. Adventure is about doing something relatively unplanned and slightly out of your comfort zone so don't wait until tomorrow, do it today.

Set yourself the challenge and let us know how you got on, log onto www.burnseries.co.uk/youradventure for full details.

During my time in Antarctica I learned the importance of goal setting when I was suffering from knee pain. It would have been very easy to give up, but because I had a very definite target, it spurred me on to continue.

Make sure you join me next week for more adventures.

Have you heard of Strava? It's a brilliant free social fitness app that allows you to share your adventures with others.

FOOTNOTE:

This column is provided for idea purposes only. Always check with your doctor if you have any concerns about your health prior to embarking on any form of physical activity and always let someone know where you are going.

Have you heard of Glympse? It's a brilliant free app that shares your location with anyone you want for a specified period of time.

The GEM newspaper and Multisport Ltd are not responsible or liable, directly, indirectly or consequentially, for ANY form of damages whatsoever resulting from the use (or misuse) of information contained in or implied by the column.

What's on / in brief

Spring fayre

AGE CONNECT Cardiff and Vale Senior Health shop are holding a spring fayre at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on April 17 at 10am-12pm. Admission free. Contact 01446 732385 for details).

Way of the Cross

THE Good Friday Walk of Witness will be held on Friday April 18 and at the Parade Gardens (opposite the Ship Hotel), Barry at 12 noon, hoping to reach the final station at King's Square about 1.30pm.

Station one: Parade Gardens, 'Gethsemane', read by Rev Clive Jones; Station two: Barry Island railway station, 'Trial before Pilate,' address by Fr Ben Andrews; Station three: One Stop Store, 'Simon of Cyrene' by Fr Pat O'Gorman; Station four: AG Adams Funeral Home, 'Women of Jerusalem,' read by Rev Peter Taylor; the final station: King's Square, 'Crucifixion', read by Mike Holmes.

Thirty three white balloons will be released at the Square after the final reading.

Easter celebration

RESIDENTS are invited to St Lawrence Church, Fort Road, Lavernock for Easter celebration on Sunday, April 20 at 3pm.

The worship will be led by Rev Margaret Stark and the organist will be Anne Thomas. Parking available on the left of Fort Road just before the church. For further information, telephone 02920 701303.

NEW GUIDES ARE ENROLLED

A COLOURFUL ceremony was held in the New Jerusalem Church Hall to mark the enrolment of the newest members of Girlguiding in Barry.

Jayne Newcombe, Division Commissioner, officially welcomed Kara, Sofia, Meghan, Ruby, Sofia, Beth, Beatrice, Mika, Kayleigh into the 1st Barry Rainbows unit at the ceremony, held recently in front of proud parents, relatives and friends.

Sarah Thomas, the unit leader, said: "Being a Rainbow is all about learning, developing self-confidence, building friendships and of course, having lots of fun! We have 11 girls currently in the unit and they all really enjoy the weekly meetings."

To join as a girl or adult volunteer, contact Jayne Newcombe on 01446 409282 or www.girlguiding.or.uk.

Barrivale bridge results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club, April 1:

1st Peter Millar & Mark Roderick 59.9%; 2nd Bryn Gough & Dave Reed 57.81%; 3rd Dave Thomas & Tom Kendrick 57.29%. Bryn & Dave won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

The Life and Times of a Liberated Woman
by NANCY DAVIDGE

PART 4

AS soon as war was declared, all windows had to be covered to prevent even the smallest chink of light being seen from enemy planes.

All transport had hoods placed over headlights. My eldest sister was also an air raid warden so we would, of course, patrol the streets of our area of Canton together.

One evening during a raid, my sister's helmet sustained a large dent, caused by shrapnel from our own artillery.

Following a particularly heavy raid, my sister saw flames rising from the middle of the road.

Realising a friend living close to the ruptured pipe was in danger, my sister was throwing dust and stones onto the flames when a policeman warned her to get away as it could explode if it was connected to a gas main.

Some weeks later, my sister was called to a secret meeting to be told the King and Queen would be visiting Canton and other areas of Cardiff and she would be presented to them for her bravery.

I thought it was rather unfair not to be included in the presentation!

In 1939, clothes and food rationing was brought in. A week's ration was 2 oz of tea, 8 oz sugar, 4 oz jam, 3 oz sweets, 2 oz lard, 2 oz butter, 4 oz cheese, 4 oz bacon, 3/4 lb meat, one egg.

One night in 1941, a devastating raid on Cardiff took place, with houses and business premises razed to the ground.

My sister and I had been out on patrol extinguishing so many incendiary bombs and decided to go into the house to find something to eat and drink.

Seconds later, we had gone into the understairs pantry when the whole house seemed to shake to its foundations.

My sister's first thought was for the safety of her young daughter, who would shelter with her neighbour when there was an air raid.

When we emerged from the house at the first light of dawn, we were greeted by utter devastation.

We knew a house just 50 yards away had been full of mourners following a family funeral. It was now a massive mound of rubble.

We stood listening for the faintest sound hoping that perhaps someone had survived.

It was three days later when the messenger boy from our warden's post heard a faint whimper and a small boy was rescued.

It was now time to become involved in full-time war work.

I thought I would join the Wrens and become a despatch rider, carrying urgent and secret messages – but I was too young.

I then attended college every evening for a month to become a fully-fledged engineer, which meant I would be working to one thousandth of an inch on massive gun barrels; I continued my training in the factory school.

The long hours working in the artificial light were taking their toll on my health, but it would take some time before I obtained my release.

(To be continued.)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Mystery notices

NOTICES are appearing in two areas of Llangan, suggesting the possibility of a further influx of travellers.

The land where notices have appeared on the gates was until recently farmed by a local farmer, now retired.

Is the land owner in favour of dozens of travellers taking possession of this good fertile land, and the upheaval this would entail, with the movement of vehicles and caravans?

Saron service

REV David Couldrick will conduct the service at Saron Chapel, Treoes which will take place on Sunday, April 13 at 3pm. I understand an important discussion will take place and be voted upon.

Burial service

LLANGAN'S school choir will take part in the burial service for skeletons discovered during the restoration of the old schoolroom at St Canna's, at 1pm on Friday, May 2.

Planning

MR Gareth Lloyd, Hill House, St Mary Hill – erection of a single wind turbine with a maximum blade height of 77 metres, along with a maximum blade height of 77 metres and accompanying access track.

Pupils' moving account of their chilling visit to Auschwitz death camp

*This report was written by **Madeleine Dabernig** (16), **Tabitha Carrington** (16), **Richard Price** (17) and **Peter Sloggett** (17), who are all students at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.*

ON Wednesday, February 19, 200 students aged 16–18 from Wales, were given the opportunity to experience at first-hand the place where an estimated 1.1 million people were killed – at Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

At 3am we woke up, drove to Cardiff Airport, and took the three-hour plane journey to Krakow, Poland. It was cold. We were dressed in walking boots, thick jeans, three t-shirts, two jackets, a waterproof coat, a scarf, a hat and gloves.

Our tour guide even informed us that we were experiencing a mild winter for Poland, yet that didn't stop us from shivering. But who were we to complain when hundreds of thousands of Jews were forced not only to be outside in these conditions wearing single layers but to be made to work brutal hours with very little food and very little sleep.

If you stopped, if you fainted from exhaustion, if you stole an extra mouthful of food, you would be punished, beaten, humiliated, murdered.

Greeting us at the gates of Auschwitz I were the infamous words 'Arbeit Macht Frei' (Work Will Set You Free): a terribly ironic and cruel message for the prisoners. But in a way, many probably did find freedom and peace in death.

In the Memorial Museum at Auschwitz I, we were truly shocked to see large rooms overflowing with pots and pans, glasses, prosthetic limbs, clothes, suitcases labelled with family names and return addresses and, worst of all, piles upon piles of human hair.

The vast scale of the Holocaust became most evident for us at this point, as all these belongings we saw were only a small proportion of what remained of so many lives.

It was disturbing to think that to the Nazis, these belongings were more valuable than the people who owned them.

Before leaving the first camp Auschwitz I, we saw the last remaining gas chamber in the whole of Auschwitz. This was the most sobering part of our visit as we were standing inside the very same place that not so long ago, Jews and other 'undesirables' were ruthlessly executed.

Next we were escorted to Auschwitz II, better known by its German name Auschwitz-Birkenau, which was worlds apart from Auschwitz I in both size and structure.

This camp was designed specifically to wipe out an entire race. We saw re-creations of the huts where prisoners would be kept like cattle, thousands dying from disease, starvation and exhaustion.

We were told that if we held a minute's silence for every person killed in Auschwitz we would have to be silent for three and a half years.

Yet, despite everything they had to suffer, their faith in God lived on. Their belief became a source of hope. And still to this day, Jewish people, along with so many others, are paying their respects.

Before we left Auschwitz-Birkenau, we took part in an inspiring memorial service led by Rabbi Barry Marcus.

Poems were read and heartrending prayers sung in Hebrew rang out into the darkness. We felt a sense of realisation about how evil humanity can be as we stood there remembering the horrendous crimes that were committed.

However, after we had scattered hundreds of lit candles across the train tracks of Auschwitz, the flicker of lights became a symbol of the respect, devotion and love that humanity can possess too.

Seventy years later, people are still coming to Auschwitz to remember and we think that is an incredible thing.

We were offered this rare opportunity to experience first-hand the death camp Auschwitz and the atrocious effects that genocide has on humanity through the valuable work of the Holocaust Educational Trust.

The aims of this charity are to teach the history of the Holocaust, to keep alive the memory of those who perished and to teach the lessons of the Holocaust today.

As part of Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project, we were picked to become ambassadors along with hundreds of other young people across the country, to try and help fulfil these aims.

We learned so much from our visit and think it is vital to spread the important message of how the lessons of the Holocaust are still relevant to society today.

The statistics of the Holocaust are impersonal. Behind the six million who perished were individuals who lived life across Europe and were part of a community.

When we speak of loss, we also mean loss of culture, customs and ideas as well as people. There is always a risk of generalising about the Holocaust and it is shocking to think that we only know a small percentage of the individual stories and testimonies that came from it.

In today's society, it is too easy to forget: forget to walk the dog, forget your dad's birthday, forget to charge your phone. Events from over seventy years ago can all too easily be lost in time.

It's difficult to comprehend the atrocities that happened in concentration camps when we are wrapped up in our own world. But we must try.

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." – George Santayana, philosopher.

This was one of the main lessons we learned from the trip. Through recognising the many injustices of the Holocaust, we can all individually strive for a better world in the hope that something similar will never happen again.

We should endeavour to challenge acts of prejudice or discrimination in both our communities and society at large, even when this may be unpopular or inconvenient.

The Holocaust is a prime example of how prejudices can grow into something as devastating as genocide.

Currently, we are working on our 'Next Steps' project in order to share our experience with others. We have been doing presentations in our school on the subject of the Holocaust, teaching the background and sharing individual stories of both survivors and persecutors.

We feel very privileged to have been able to go on this trip and we are extremely grateful to the Holocaust Educational Trust for all their work.

To donate to the Trust or learn more about the Holocaust, please visit their website: http://www.het.org.uk/.

Rotarians' insight into the Noah's Ark Appeal

AT last Thursday's dining night, Dinas Powys Rotary Club welcomed Mr Lindsay Doyle, a volunteer fundraiser for the Noah's Ark Appeal, to address members and partners on the work and aims of the appeal.

Lindsay said: "It has been my pleasure to have been involved with the Noah's Ark Appeal for over 10 years, as part of the volunteer fundraising team.

"Since then, through the generosity of the Welsh people from all walks of life, we have witnessed the opening of the first phase of the children's hospital.

"Phase two is under construction, but we now need to equip it with modern, child friendly, clinical technology such as an MRI scanner costing £1.5million and the proceeds raised from the Dinas Powys Rotary Club's Vale of Glamorgan Classic car Show in May will be donated to this cause, for which I thank you all".

Club president Anthony Stevens thanked Lindsay for a very interesting talk and looked forward to the club's support of the appeal.

Teddy bears

ALL Saints Church, Park Road, Barry, is holding a teddy bear zip wire event on Saturday, April 12 at 2pm in the church grounds and church hall.

Bring along your favourite teddy or teddies and watch them slide down the side of the church; £1 per teddy to enter.

'Lights will go out' to remember Great War

PICTURED: Ade Pitman's grandad, Percy Pitman, taken in what is today Afghanistan, in 1915. Percy Pitman is seen holding the sign (centre, on left)

THE lights will go out at Holton Road Church on August 4 to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War, the world's most costly conflict and one which continues to affect our lives today.

Barry at War chair, Ade Pitman, explained the significance of this event saying: "To mark the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War, candlelit vigils will be held across Britain, and cathedrals near to the battlefields, to mirror a service that took place in Westminster Abbey 100 years before.

"Candles will be extinguished to echo a remark of the (then) Foreign Secretary Viscount Edward Grey, who said on the outbreak of the Great War, 'The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our time.'

"For many this was true, as by the following Christmas, thousands of people had died on the battlefields and the high seas.

With Barry and the rural Vale having lost so many of its men-folk during the Great War, it is right that we remember and mark the centenary of this momentous day in the world's history, and work to explain its significance to younger generations by remembering the price that was paid by all involved, and how this has shaped the world in which we live today.

"Barry at War intends to ensure that Barry and the Vale are at the forefront of the UK's Great War commemoration programme."

Ade continued: "I admit to not being an expert on the Great War, but thankfully Barry is blessed with several historians who are.

"However, in the relatively short time that I have been involved in helping to promote this aspect of our wartime heritage, I can't help but see why this war had such an effect on our society.

"Here in Glamorgan, we are blessed with some very capable female political leaders, and yet before the Great War women did not even have a vote.

"This was because most of the men were fighting, so women carried out 'men's work' during the war. This greatly advanced the Suffragette movement's drive towards equality for women.

"I have also learned recently that Barry was home to several wartime hospitals towards the end of the Great War, with hundreds of wounded troops recovering in the town. This was unsurprising as the casualty figures from this period were horrific.

"For example, the British Army suffered almost twice as many casualties on the first day of the Battle of the Somme as there were people living in Barry at the time. Just think of how that affected the communities across Glamorgan.

"Over 700 of Barry's men never returned from the war, and the same proportion of men failed to return to the villages around Glamorgan. This is why most villages in the county have war memorials.

"Because of this a generation of women could not find husbands; simply because there weren't enough men around following the Great War.

"These are some of the reasons why we should strive to remember the Great War; not just for those who fought, and who we will never know, but for the legacy that was left for today's society. This is why I am seeking to create a Glamorgan Great War Centenary Centre in Barry.

"Barry at War group will also be holding a display about Barry and the Vale during the Great War in Barry library in the run up to the centenary of its outbreak, and this year's Barry Wartime Weekend will also feature a Great War living history encampment, complete with cavalry unit. The Barry Wartime Weekend will take place on the weekend of August 30-31, almost 100 years to the day that my grandfather left home to play his part in it."

The 'Lights going out' commemorative service will take place at Holton Road Church, Barry from 7pm on August 4. The last candle will be extinguished at 9pm. For more details contact Rev Ben Andrews on 01446 406690.

URGENT POSSESSION PROCEDURE UPDATE

NEWBOLD Solicitors would like to remind all landlords and agents that from April 22, the court fee for all possession claims is due to increase very significantly, as a result of the Civil Procedure Fees (Amendment) Order 2014.

There are currently two types of procedures that can be followed to obtain possession of a property.

The normal possession procedure mostly commonly used where the landlord wishes to gain possession of the property and a money claim for rent arrears.

This is often referred to as the 'Section 8 Route". The Court fee for this application is increasing by 150% from £100 (for an online application) to £250.

The accelerated possession procedure is used where the landlord simply wishes to obtain possession of the property. This is often referred to as the 'Section 21 Route".

The court fee for this application is increasing by 60 per cent from £175 to £280.

At Newbold Solicitors we understand obtaining possession of a property can be costly, stressful and time is always of the essence.

We urge all landlords and agents to contact us to find out more about issuing possession proceedings before the deadline and to avoid a large increase to the cost of proceedings.

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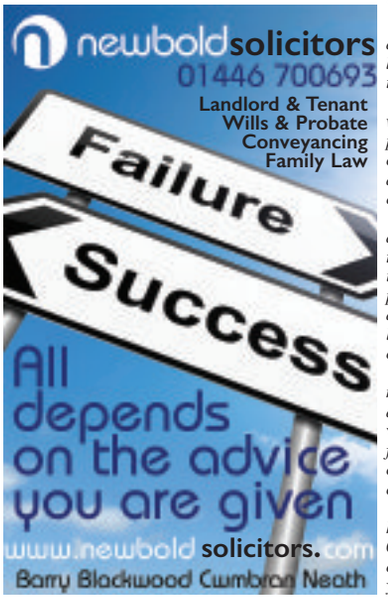

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'Visit the graves of Great War fallen' – MP URGES

THE MP for Bridgend, Madeleine Moon, is urging local schools and constituents to visit their local Commonwealth war graves, to gain a greater understanding of the scale and magnitude of the Great War and the impact that it has had on today's society.

The call follows a national initiative spearheaded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), the All-Party Parliamentary War Heritage Group and the 'In From The Cold Project' that maps over 300,000 Commonwealth war dead by each Parliamentary constituency.

The initiative is supported the MP who has been sharing information with community councils about the location of war graves in their area and visited Commonwealth war graves across the constituency

"The centenary of the outbreak of the First World War is a time, not just for reflection and commemoration but also an opportunity to educate a new generation of young people about the extraordinary events of a 100 years ago and to bring to life some of the personal stories from this remarkable time," said Madeleine.

"Working with local groups and students gives us all an opportunity to explore how we would like to secure this legacy for generations to come. Visiting the graves of the fallen is a simple but profoundly important way to commemorate the outbreak of the war."

Deirdre Mills, CWGC's Director of UK Area states that: "The centenary is an opportune time for us to re-engage and connect with local communities and young people, and explain how the people who are buried in our graves got to be there, who they were, and where they were from.

"More than 300,000 Commonwealth servicemen and women are commemorated in the UK. Many died in military hospitals whilst being treated for their wounds or fell victim to the flu pandemic as the conflict drew to a close.

"Their graves reflect both the local impact of the war but also its wider historical significance.

"To highlight some of the personal stories of those who are buried or commemorated in our graves, we are installing over 100 visitor information panels throughout the UK during the Centenary. The panels incorporate QR codes which, when scanned with the latest smartphone technology enable visitors to read these stories and understand the historical context."

Working with schools to bring this extraordinary period of history alive for students , the CWGC is in May launching a Local War Graves Visits programme in six locations – Cambridge, Oxford, Cannock Chase, Southampton, Plymouth and Cardiff – with plans to extend this to other parts of the UK later in the year.

Teachers will be able to take advantage of the CWGC's network of vetted and fully trained volunteers to take them around CWGC sites and war graves, highlight key hotspots, and assist them with lesson planning.

At the Education Show in mid-March, CWGC launched an online Virtual Cemetery education portal that provides schools and teachers with a comprehensive range of resources and support materials linked to the graves and memorials in their home town.

The virtual cemetery website www.cwgc-virtual-cemetery.org is an interactive tool which enables pupils and teachers to view images and videos, learn more about CWGC's work across the globe, and – most importantly – the people that are commemorated in its cemeteries and memorials.

The virtual cemetery resource has been designed to encourage debate and spark pupils' interest in thinking about the centenary of the First World War and the different ways in which everyone can remember the servicemen and women who gave their lives in the conflict.

The website also supports teachers with curriculum notes, lesson plans and suggestions for classroom activities.

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Encourage children to garden this Easter

by HANNAH STEPHENSON

IF the weather is fine this Easter (and it's beginning to look like it might be) many parents will be wanting to sort out their gardens – and hopefully encourage their children to give them a hand along the way.

Certainly, with National Gardening Week (April 14-20) on its way too – a scheme launched three years ago by the Royal Horticultural Society to celebrate gardening with nationwide events – there really is no excuse not to get your little ones outdoors.

Andrea Fowler, the horticultural educator at RHS Garden Wisley, points out that attracting wildlife, seed-sowing and vegetable-growing are all sources of inspiration to young gardeners.

"Spring is definitely here so we can be seed-sowing and planting in earnest. If you just want to get the children outside do an Easter egg hunt in the garden – there are also Easter holiday activities at all four RHS gardens over the holidays.

"If you're sowing seeds with children, sow something that's going to spark their imagination. Plant flower seeds which children will be excited about, like calendula – there's a calendula called 'Porcupine' which is an extra spiky pot marigold. There's also cornflower 'Blue Boy' and sunflowers, which everyone loves.

"Nasturtiums are fantastic and make great container plants so you don't need to have a huge garden, you can just grow them in a window box. Herbs are also great.

"If you're growing veg with children, have a go with 'Pink Fir Apple' potatoes (a maincrop variety with knobbly pink skinned tubers of butter yellow, waxy flesh) or purple potatoes, purple beans and yellow tomatoes, which will get them interested."

Attracting wildlife into the garden will also engage the children, so help them build a mini-beast hotel (although autumn can be a better time to do this when wildlife is looking to hibernate).

A simple bug hotel can be made from a collection of hollow stems packed into a plastic bottle with the end cut off.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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iPAD GIFT OFFERS WINDOW FOR LEARNING AT COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE

Cowbridge Comprehensive School students have taken delivery of a brand new iPad as part of a local business' scheme to invest in IT for schools.

Securahome, which has showrooms in Ewenny Garden Centre Bridgend and Gorseinon, Swansea, is giving away iPads to schools across Wales as part of its 20th anniversary celebrations.

The iPad was presented to assistant head Jonathan Ling, who explained the how tablet computers are used to aid learning in the school.

"iPads are used across the curriculum, for subjects from English through to Chemistry," he said. "We have subject specific, educational apps on them as well as books for children to read in the library, teachers also use them to write their subject blogs, so this donation will get good use!"

Securahome sales and marketing manager Nigel Hocking (far left) presents an iPad to assistant head Jonathan Ling and pupils at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Securahome, which specialises in the installation of orangeries, conservatories, windows and doors, launched the scheme to mark its two-decades of business.

The company's MD Jason Jenkins said: "We've had a large number of referrals and recommendations from customers over our 20 years in business and so wanted to give something back to say 'thank you'."

"As a father I know how important and useful IT is for learning, so donating iPads to schools seemed to be a natural way of giving something back to the community that has supported us so well."

Under the scheme, customers who are making an enquiry or referral can nominate a school to receive an iPad. Each month, Securahome will hold a draw of the names submitted, with the winner receiving an iPad.

Mr Ling added: "We are very pleased to be supporting this scheme. It is good to see a local business invest in the community in this way."

The scheme was also commended by Goverton AM and Minister for Science, Enterprise and Transport Edwina Hart at its launch earlier this month.

Mrs Hart said: "Good companies accept their corporate social responsibility, and it's wonderful to see someone who has built a successful business from scratch take this seriously and give something back to the community."

MAKING YOUR HOUSE A HOME

MAKING YOUR HOUSE A HOME

Get the children into the garden and see what fun you can have...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

Several hotels could be placed in different positions such as on the ground among vegetation, fixed on top of a post, next to a wall, half way up a hedge, in a tree, under a bird table.

Grander bug hotels can be made by piling up a variety of materials into a tower, or making a wooden frame with a series of compartments and packing these with different fillings.

Remember rotting wood is both a home and source of food for various beetle grubs and a vast army of other mini-beasts, which in turn make a tasty snack for birds, hedgehogs and frogs, so leave an area of the garden wild and build a log pile with the children.

Andrea said: "Children also love worms. If you are working in the garden let them dig with a trowel and they'll love it. But don't let them chop the worms in half."

You could also help your children make a bird cake, using fat, good quality wild birdseed, raisins, peanuts and grated cheese. Just leave the fat in a warm place to soften, put the other ingredients into a bowl, chop the fat into small pieces and add to the mixture, mixing it together using fingers or a spoon.

Put the mixture into a yoghurt pot to hang from your bird table or roll into balls to place on it.

Andrea stressed: "We need to get the next generation to be inspired by gardening."

For more information about National Gardening Week events, go to *www.nationalgardeningweek.org.uk*

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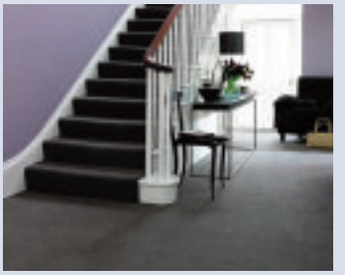

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'Vast' range open to the public

A NEW carpet store has just opened in the Vale – backed by 35 years of experience.

Llandow Carpet Studio, based on the Vale Business Park, is the new retail flooring department of Ourown Designs.

The store is run by the Terrett family, who have been in business in Llantwit Major since 1978 as interior designers and flooring contractors. The family have been operating mainly as contractors to new homes builders, furnishing the showhomes and flooring new homes for their purchasers.

Over the years, the Terrett family developed a special relationship with Cormar Carpets, voted the UK's No1 carpet manufacturer. Patrick and Susan Terrett of Ourown Designs have been the largest independent supplier of Cormar Carpets in south Wales for some time, but have never advertised, as they have never been open to the general public until now.

Llandow Carpet Studio has recently opened in the Vale.

The new showroom is unique in the fact it is the only showroom that operates exclusively with Cormar Carpets. The range is vast, and there should be a product to meet every person's carpet requirements.

In addition to carpets, the family offer various hard flooring, including Amtico and Kardean.

Byron Terrett is in charge of all the installation teams and is a NICF advanced master fitter. He actually represented Wales in the World Carpet Fitting Championship trials.

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Gardening guru's plans for flower show!

TV gardening guru Alan Titchmarsh is looking forward to getting his hands dirty at RHS Chelsea Flower Show this year, writes HANNAH STEPHENSON.

Instead of wearing a sharp suit to present the show, for the first time in 30 years, he will be wearing a pair of gloves and designing a garden instead.

Obviously, there's a substantial chance it will be rather good, too – not only is Titchmarsh one of the country's best-known gardening presenters, but back in 1985, when Titchmarsh last designed a garden at the prestigious Chelsea Shiow, he was awarded an RHS Gold Medal for his Country Kitchen garden.

He will also be joining forces with another RHS Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal winner, Kate Gould, to create From The Moors To The Sea – a celebration of 50 years of the RHS Britain in Bloom campaign, to represent how 300,000 volunteers help to make Britain bloom and explore Alan's relationship with horticulture through his life.

"It's 50 years since I started work as an apprentice, so I thought I could either do a 1960s-style garden through to the 21st century, but the sixties were a bit dull, all rose beds and lawns.

"So I thought, why don't I demonstrate where I first started, which was the Yorkshire moors, up to where I garden now, on the coast on the Isle of Wight?

"So we will be sloping from moorland at the back, with dry stone walls, coming down to a seaside garden at the front. It's 50 years of 'my journey', to use the X-Factor phrase.

"It's also showing the British Isles and its variety. Being a cool temperate set of islands, the range we can grow is incredibly wide and this will show the richness of the British Isles."

He'll be featuring pines, heathers and birches from the moorland, through wild flowers, down to seaside plants including echiums and cabbage palms. It will be a 10m by 15m microcosm of British gardens and landscapes.

It sounds great, but how does Titchmarsh feel about not presenting the Chelsea coverage for the first time in 30 years?

Last year Titchmarsh announced he was stepping down from the BBC's coverage of Chelsea after programme-makers offered him a more 'limited' role, although he remains RHS vice president and first ambassador.

"I feel wonderful," he insists. "I'm putting a show garden together – I've done it before and I love doing it. It's technically an exhibit but will look like a show garden. It's not being judged but the same criteria and standard of finish will have to be there."

"I've moved on," he continues. "There was disappointment but it's gone, I'm over it. There's no point in dwelling on things."

It's all part of a new beginning for Titchmarsh, who began his career as that apprentice for Ilkley Council, before becoming the face of BBC2's Gardeners' World for six years until 2002.

He also presented Ground Force, How To Be A Gardener and several natural history series, and has written a number of bestselling novels and has a regular slot on Classic FM.

He's had eight years presenting an afternoon chat show too, though this is also ending after its last run in autumn.

"It's better to stop doing something when you're still regarded as being successful, while people are still watching, rather than it going off the boil. It will be my 15th series in the autumn, that's eight years.

"It's every day. Jonathan Ross and Graham Norton do one a week. I do five. I thought, let's stop while it's doing well."

He's certainly got enough else to keep him occupied too, with forthcoming TV projects including a two-parter about the gardens of Buckingham Palace, out in December, a new series of Love Your Garden in the summer and a series called Britain's Best Gardens for ITV, in which he explores 30 of Britain's best domestic gardens.

He's also just launched a new gardening range with Waitrose, though he won't reveal if his Chelsea garden will feature any of the new products.

Incredibly, he sees all this as 'slowing down', saying that with three grandchildren to enjoy and his landmark 65th birthday coming up in May, he hopes to cut down his workload.

"I'll never stop but I want to pace myself a bit more."

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Last weekend, April 5 - 6, a game and country fair was held in the castle grounds and The GEM's Glyn Evans was on hand to capture some of the sights and activities.

There were children's workshops in falconry, fishing and dog handling.

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LEFT:People took part in some of the many activies on offer – in this case clay pigeon shooting. BELOW: 'At peace with my surroundings!'

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Cowbridge junior rugby round-up

DESPITE an early kick-off, the loss of an hour's sleep and the lure of giving mum a well-earned breakfast in bed on Mother's Day, a squad of 19 Cowbridge under-10s made the trip to Whitchurch to take on an excellent CRICC side.

Cowbridge made their customary slow start and were 12-0 down by the end of the first quarter. Sloppy defending and handling allowed CRICC to dominate, scoring two simple tries, and Cowbridge could make no inroads in a well organised and aggressive defence.

The second quarter saw a marked difference with Robbie Brown leading from the front with some trademark tackling.

Ably supported by Will Ryan and the fast improving Ollie Jones, the Cowbridge line held firm and Brown crossed for a fine team try and added the extras to make it 12-7. CRICC hit back against a tiring defence to add another score to make it 17-7 after the third period.

The final period was highly competitive with several boys making amends for their sloppy start.

Iolo Davies, Finlay Ball and Ben Hardy showed up well with fine tackling and intelligent ball play and the sidestepping of Steffan Evans was again on show!

The whole team showed excellent grit and determination to limit CRICC to two further tries leaving the final score CRICC 29, Cowbridge 7.

An excellent showing and the score somewhat flattered CRICC who are a well drilled and skilful team.

The coaches were very proud of the effort and commitment shown by all the boys and grateful to the parents for turning up on a day when they could be forgiven for putting family commitments first.

Squad: Lewys Robins, Tom Brennan, Archie Lloyd, Ben Hardy, Finlay Ball, Robbie Brown, Will Harris, Harry Treharne, Oliver Jones, Steffan Evans, Will Ryan, Rhydian Williams, Finlay Sullivan, Rhys Pritchard, Iolo Davies, Sebastian Johns-Powell, Alfie Rees, Finlay Brace, Akka Guwy.

Previously a near-full squad of 23 had travelled to Rumney on a gorgeous spring morning and emerged worthy victors after a thrilling display.

Cowbridge found themselves 19-0 down within a few minutes of the kick off. The well drilled and physical Rumney outfit showed much greater physicality in the tackle area, turning over Cowbridge ball at ease, and were well equipped with ball carriers to cross the whitewash.

Tackles were too readily missed and unnecessary offloads snaffled by the alert Rumney players. They managed to stem the tide and keep the opposition to three tries.

A change of personnel in the second period triggered a revival with the 10/12 axis of Harry Treharne and Ruben Davies looking dangerous.

Gritty defence from the likes of Ollie Jones and Fin Brace stopped the Rumney ball carriers and when in possession Cowbridge always looked likely to score. Ruben and Harry added a score each to cut the deficit to 19-10.

The next period was even and enthralling with defences on top. Robbie Brown and Lewys Robins put in some fine hits while Luke Treadwell and Will Ryan were tireless in hitting breakdown after breakdown.

Robbie Brown crossed and converted with Rumney scoring one of their own in reply to leave the scores poised at 26-17 to the home side.

The final period was a tale of two tackles - the Rumney 15 pulling off a miracle ankle tap when Ruben Davies seemed destined to score, and Akka Guwy crunching Rumney's finest ball carrier as he was destined to cross for the score that would clinch the win.

At the ensuing scrum Treharne and Davies drew the opposition defence, putting Fin Brace in space. With merely three quarters of the pitch to go he showed a clean pair of heels to the cover defence to bring Cowbridge within a score.

By now the confidence was flowing and determined ball carrying from Fin Sullivan drew a high tackle and a penalty.

With seconds to go the ball was spread wide for Robbie to barge his way over and clinch a fabulous victory.

This was arguably the best performance the squad has put together with all members putting in a shift and finding their roles within the team.

The rugby was breathtaking at times and a joy to watch - if only they could ditch the traditional headstart they give the opposition and play well from the first whistle!

Well done to all the boys and thanks from the coaching staff to all the parents and the coaches from Rumney for a fine welcome.

Squad: Lewys Robins, Tom Brennan, Archie Lloyd, Robbie Brown, Will Harris, Steffan Evans, Iolo Davies, Finlay Brace, Akka Guwy, Ruben Davies, Sam Payne, Ifor Rees, Luke Treadwell, Rhydian Williams, Oliver Jones, Finlay Sullivan, Ben Hardy, Will Ryan, Harry Treharne, Finlay Ball, Rhys Prichard, Alfie Rees, Sebastian Johns-Powell.

In February, with two fixtures coinciding on the same morning, a squad of 12 took on near neighbours Pencoed on a crisp morning.

Despite facing a much bigger side on a narrow pitch, the boys turned in a fine display of running rugby to run out worthy winners.

After some fine initial work at the breakdown to turn over opposition ball by Iolo Davies and Will Harris, Ruben Davies sliced through the Pencoed defence to open the scoring.

A sterling defensive effort from the likes of Archie Lloyd and the tireless Akka Guwy held Pencoed to a single score while Cowbridge added two more fine tries through Guwy and Steffan Evans.

The second period was a similar tale with Pencoed unable to cope with the elusive pace of Ruben, who added two more fine efforts.

Akka outflanked the Pencoed defence for another score but even more pleasing for the coaches was the set up work and intelligent handling of the entire team.

Ferocious tackling from Finlay Brace and Sam Payne epitomised the defensive ethic and limited Pencoed to two tries from their big ball-carriers from close range.

Cowbridge added four more tries in the final period courtesy of a brace each to Ruben Davies and the uncharacteristically straight running Finlay Brace.

The game Pencoed outfit added two of their own to leave the final score Cowbridge 50, Pencoed 25.

An excellent match which should fill the lads with confidence that they can compete and beat sides with a significant physical advantage.

The boys played with purpose from the first kick of the game, which is their traditional 'achilles heel', but every single squad member made an impressive contribution to the victory of which they can be proud.

Squad: Lewys Robins, Tom Brennan, Archie Lloyd, Robbie Brown, Will Harris, Steffan Evans, Iolo Davies, Finlay Brace, Akka Guwy, Ruben Davies, Sam Payne, Ifor Rees.

MR

COWBRIDGE DARTS ROUND-UP

ON Tuesday, April 1, there was a full programme of league matches scheduled.

Even though the Edmondes B defeated the Edmondes C 7-2, Llanharry, by defeating the Cross Inn 9-0, ensured that, even with two matches to go, they are the league champions.

These results also confirmed the Edmondes B as this season's runners-up.

However, the race for third place is still wide open. By defeating the Old Post Ladies 9-0, while the Highwayman Inn defeated the Hare and Hounds 5-4, the Edmondes A jumped to third place.

A no-show by the Star Inn resulted in the Farmers Arms being awarded nine points.

It was another evening of high scoring darts with Matt Pay (Edmondes B) and Ashley Bailer (Highwayman Inn) both hitting a 180; the three-dart maximum.

The league standings after 16 matches are: Llanharry (130 points), Edmondes B (110), Edmondes A (75), Edmondes C (72), Hare and Hounds (71), Farmers Arms (70), Cross Inn (69), Highwayman Inn (64), Old Post Ladies (34), The Star Inn (25).

The next matches are on Tuesday, April 15, when there is a full programme of league matches scheduled.

The Edmondes C hosts the Star Inn, Llanharry hosts the Farmers Arms, the Edmondes A hosts the Edmondes B, the Hare and Hounds hosts the Cross Inn, while the Old Post Ladies hosts the Highwayman Inn. The first matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

It is time to start thinking about next season! So if a group of you is interested in forming a team (six players minimum) and your local pub is willing to host you, get in touch and register your interest.

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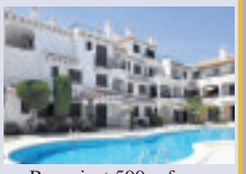

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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern, I, Mandy Jones, do hereby give notice of an application to The Vale of Glamorgan Council Licensing Authority for the variation to premises licence at the address Fizz Bar, 12 Market Street, Barry, CF62 7AS.

This to include: **The retail sale of alcohol** Sun, Thurs - 09:00-23:30, Fri and Sat 09:00-01:30. **Regulated entertainment** Sun - Wed 12:00-23:00, Thurs 12:00-23:30, Fri, Sat 12:00-01:30. **Opening Hours** Sun, Thurs - 09:00-00:00, Fri and Sat - 09:00-02:00.

Any person wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to: Vale of Glamorgan Council Licensing Department, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU, not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make false statements in connection with this application. The maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

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Birthdays

Abigail Baker

Happy 11th Birthday on 15th April 2014

Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Joe and all the family xxx

KIM JONES
Happy 26th Birthday
on April 16, 2014
Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Kathryn, Ember & The Bombettes XXX

Gillian Tasker
on 11th April
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Best wishes from all your friends at The GEM

Thank You

THANK YOU

To the kind lady who told us about the found cat advert in the shop window. It was indeed our 'Rosie'!
I would also like to say thank you to all those people who have helped to look for her - especially the kind couple who found her and kept her fed and safe while they were looking for her owners.
JOHN AND VAL FROM TYNEWYDD ROAD, BARRY.

Public Notice

NOTICE

The Registrar General, being satisfied that the United Reformed Church, Windsor Road, Barry and Ebenezer United Reformed Church, Colhugh Street, Llantwit Major are no longer used by the congregations on whose behalf they were registered for marriages in accordance with the Marriage Act 1836, has cancelled the registrations thereof.
Allison Jones for the Registrar General
April 2014

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Family Notices

WHITAKER
Robert Duncan (Bob)

On 2nd April 2014, aged 68, Bob passed away peacefully to be reunited with his beloved wife Jean. Much loved father, dadcu and brother.

Service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Tuesday, 15th April at 1pm, no flowers by request, donations in lieu of flowers to Kidney Wales Foundation, 1 Radnor Court, 256 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, CF5 1GZ.

BOSMA
Lubbe
Born Grootagast, Holland

On April 2 at Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre, Penarth, peacefully after a long illness, Lubbe of Rhoose, much beloved husband of Janice, dearly loved father of Mark and Jason, dear father-in-law of Nicola and Julie, loved master of Shiloh his Weimerana, much loved by all his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday April 16th. Service and Cremation 1.30pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
TOBUTT
Philip Alan

Sadly and suddenly on 6th April. Much loved partner to Doreen. Adored Father to Sharon, Daryl and Anita. Best Bampy ever to Ryan, Deryn, Iwan and Ffion. Watch over us. Love you to the moon and back.

OVERTON
Jim

Liz, Ian, Peter and Kirsty would like to express their gratitude for the kind words, comfort and ongoing support given by friends and family. Please know your kindness during this hard time has meant so much to us all. Thanks to Canon Derek and team for his comforting service. Special thanks to Gillian, Hazel, John, Tom, David, Jamie, Simon and Daniel.

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Christian U-boat commander who infuriated the German navy

ON April 1, Captain David Jones gave a talk to the Dinas Powys Probus Club entitled 'The Enemy We Killed – My New Friends', an account of his war-time experiences in the Merchant Navy and his encounter with U-boat commander, Captain Werner Hartstein.

David joined his first ship, *The Quebec City*, at the age of 15, just 48 hours after war was declared, and sailed from Newport as a junior cadet/gunnery officer. The captain was William Caradoc Thomas, commonly referred to as 'WC'. David was not a success as a gunnery officer and became the navigator cadet, a position he held until his ship was torpedoed.

The Quebec City was part of the convoys crossing the Atlantic to bring war materials and food to Britain. On one occasion, the ship was damaged by a German torpedo and could not keep up with the other vessels and so had to be left behind to try and make its own unprotected way to New York.

It succeeded and the crew were taken in by generous New Yorkers, but only after first attending a service at the Welsh Chapel, at the insistence of WC.

In September, 1942, the ship was torpedoed in the South Atlantic, 1,200 miles off the coast of West Africa, by U-boat 156, under the command of Captain Hartstein.

At the moment the ship was hit, David was in the shower and because the door was jammed, he had to escape through the port-hole, totally naked; 44 survivors managed to get into the 20-foot-long life boats, with David in the bow of his boat, where he stayed for 17 days, until they reached land at Liberia. Without any clothes for the whole journey, to keep warm at night he snuggled between two large seamen!

Before sinking the *Quebec City* with gun-fire, Captain Hartstein made sure that all the survivors were safe and apologised for not being able to spare them any provisions or water.

He allowed some men to return to their ship for water, gave them directions for land and hoped they would all get to safety. Captain Hartstein later sank the troop ship *Laconia* but managed to save 1,000 seamen.

He was heavily criticised by the German Navy for not killing survivors, but his humanitarian principles and Christian beliefs made him incapable of such acts. He was killed in action in 1943.

When David eventually returned home to Swansea, his mother's first words on opening her door were: "Where have you been for the last three years?"

After the war, he decided to research Werner Hartstein's background and to write about his courage in trying to save men he had torpedoed. He discovered that he came from an extremely wealthy family, and his home had been a castle the size of Balmoral.

David's book, which is the title of his talk, became a best-seller and was translated into German at the request of a naval museum.

David travelled to Germany to meet Werner's relatives and unveiled a plaque commemorating his bravery in the church at Plauen, Bavaria, where he had been christened and worshipped.

David retired after studying at Cardiff and London universities, gaining a Master Mariner's qualification.

The vote of thanks was given by Derry Moore.

CR

Penarth is voted Pier of the Year

PENARTH pier has been voted Pier of the Year 2014 by the National Piers Society – receiving more than twice the number of votes of its nearest rival, Cromer.

The pier, owned and maintained by The Vale of Glamorgan Council, recently saw a £4 million regeneration of the Pier Pavilion by Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd.

It was funded by the Vale Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, Big Lottery Fund, Welsh Government, and various other organisations and donors.

Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale Council, said: "I am absolutely delighted that Penarth Pier has been chosen as 'Pier of the year 2014'. The pier has always been a special place, but the hard work, dedication and commitment of Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd [PACL] in renovating the Pavilion has ensured the pier is now truly the 'Jewel in the Crown' of the Vale."

Dockers Cup delight for the Rhoose Rovers

IT was a match that will live long in the memories of everyone associated with Rhoose Rovers FC, as they played out a hard earned 2-1 victory against VIFC after extra time, to win the Dockers Cup at Jenner Park.

In a match that provided everything: tension, excitement, physicality and ecstasy, it wasn't until the final minute of extra time that the winning goal was scored.

The first half was a tight and scrappy affair with both sides creating half chances but neither getting that elusive chance to give their side the advantage.

The only bit of action involved a heavy collision between VI's Jordan Mortimore and Rhoose's Owain Grandin. Grandin raced out to claim the ball, only to have taken a heavy blow from the striker.

It was a nervy few minutes for the team and its supporters but Grandin was okay to continue. The halftime whistle was greeted with relief as an otherwise flat first half came to a close.

The second half was like watching a completely different match; the Rovers came out all guns blazing with some bright football, given the boggy conditions on the Jenner Park pitch.

However, they seemed to have left their shooting boots at home as the VI goalkeeper remained untested.

The Rovers were almost made to pay for their lack of composure when a direct ball cut the defensive line and brought a free-kick on the edge of the box.

However, with everyone on the touchline expecting a goal, the wall remained strong and cleared the danger to bring the main bit of controversy; Rhys Attley was put through on goal only to seemingly be taken off the ball by the VI right-back.

Cries for a penalty came from most of the supporters but they were waved away by the referee. The match was still deadlocked at full time, which meant extra time beckoned.

This brought the majority of the action. Within minutes, the first goal was scored; a corner whipped in by VI was scrapped over the line, despite two blocks from the Rovers defence.

Many thought that that would be it, but they say that when you score you are at your most vulnerable, and that is what happened.

A crisp ball was played through to Tom Bevan, seconds after kick-off, and Bevan showed plenty of composure to level the score and send the crowd into raptures.

The final 10 minutes brought the most excitement as it became a match of end to end football.

Both sides had key chances to write their name into the headlines but it came to the final minute when the ball was played from Jamie Bagnall, to Rhys Attley.

Attley then bypassed the defensive line and placed the ball into the bottom corner of the goal to send Rhoose Rovers into ecstasy.

Celebrations were far from muted as everyone raced to the corner to celebrate with Attley as his goal ensured the Dockers Cup went back to Rhoose.

Squad: Owain Grandin, Dale Trickett (Matt Bagnall, 52 minutes), Jamie Bagnall, Jonathan Park, Joe Walsh (c), Chris Vinson, Rhys Attley, Chris Bolton, Joel Preece, Tom Bevan, Josh Rowe. Subs not used: Ashley Baker, Jakob Andrews, John Martlow.

Special thanks go to John Martlow for arranging a team coach for the day, Kevin Rees for managing from the touchline as Dave Walsh conducted proceeding from the stands, and all of the families and friends that turned up to help make this a magical day for the club.

Matchday sponsors: GDL Solutions, Go Direct! and KR Builders. **AB**

Penalty shoot out sees Panthers lift the Cup

TWO Barry sides met in the under-13s cup final at Jenner Park on Sunday, April 6, with the underdogs Porthkerry Panthers playing cup holders Barry Athletic, who had yet to lose a competitive cup match.

Porthkerry Panthers with the trophy. PICTURE BY ROB JONES.

The Panthers started brightly and enjoyed the majority of the possession forcing a number of corners that were well defended by a towering Athletic back four.

The Panthers were creating chances with Sam Hopkins, Ben Jones, Bradley Western and Callum Bellemy all causing problems for the Athletic defence.

The Panthers back four of Cory James, Jack Stokes, Adam Davies and Oliver White were in impressive form, allowing only the odd long shot from the Athletic during a dominant first half.

At the other end the Panthers were creating all sorts of chances with Joe Mellars scoring from a curling 20 yards effort from just outside the box to put them in control.

Louie Dutton hit the post from a corner before being put clear by Joe, only to see his shot go wide from eight yards. Joe Mellars was put through by Sam Hopkins but his shot was parried by the exceptional Athletic keeper, leaving the score at halftime 1-0.

The second half saw the Athletic come out fighting; they began to get their passing game going without penetrating the Panthers goal. Lloyd Perkins was now putting the tackles in and covering every inch of grass.

The Athletic got an equaliser halfway through the second half when an inch perfect shot found the bottom corner. This resulted in the Athletic's best spell of the game, forcing two great saves from Panthers keeper Ben Wallace, one outstanding save at his near post.

The introduction of fresh legs in the form of Rhys Everitt and Declan Edwards rejuvenated the Panthers and as the game wore on they took control again.

The dreaded extra-time came; the Panthers continued to create chances with Joe Mellars hitting the side netting before two late chances.

The first was created by Brad Western who squared the ball to the feet of Declan Edwards who saw his shot go agonisingly over, and then for the save of the match from the Athletic keeper from Louie Dutton.

This meant that the match would be decided on penalties and, at 4-4, Panthers goalkeeper Ben Wallace produced a fine save to leave the outcome in the hands of Sam Hopkins.

This time last year he represented Barry Athletic before his move to the Panthers and it was his well struck penalty that hit the underside of the bar that won this thrilling match for the Panthers.

The game was played in a great spirit, epitomised by Joseff Nicholas and the whole of the Athletic boys, who did everything to showcase an exceptional final.

Barry Town manager, Gavin Chesterfield, presented the trophies to all the players and referees, and captain Jack Stokes lifted the cup aloft after a gruelling encounter.

The young referees on show were a credit to the Vale of Glamorgan football league and highlighted the huge amount of young talent that has recently emerged within local referees. **RJ**

And the view from the Athletic...

THIS year's under-13s cup final was contested between Barry Athletic FC and Porthkerry Panthers FC at Jenner Park.

Despite their rivalry, both teams showed that they have nothing but respect for each other as the game was played in a tremendous spirit.

The game itself was a frantic affair but the Panthers were the better team in the first half and deservedly led 1-0 at halftime with a well taken Joe Mellors goal.

The Athletic had the better of the second half and got their rewards with a Joshua Peets finish from just inside the box.

Extra-time was tense with both teams having chances but the game finished 1-1.

The lottery of penalties ensued and although the Athletic started the stronger it was the Panthers who held their nerve to get the win.

Man of the match for the Athletic went to Joe Allwood who was outstanding.

The coaching staff of the Athletic would like to thank their long-term sponsors TEMA Fabrications and Container Services Wales Ltd, and particular thanks go to O'Shea's Fish & Chip Shop of Barry Island for the generosity shown by providing the post-match food.

The coaching staff would also like to thank the parents for their continued support and to congratulate the players on their tremendous effort in reaching their second final in two years.

Squad: Matthew Mayor, Sam Montgomery, Alfie Davies, Dan Barnett, Joe Allwood, Rhys Woolmer, Evan Wells, Conner Bright, Jack Such, Will Drew, Jordan Jones, Joshua Peets, Lawrence Walpole.

DW

Poor conditions see the Pencoed Phoenix defeated

IN a round of super cup and horrid conditions, it was a game that Pencoed Phoenix really shouldn't have played against Seven Sisters.

Charlie Mundy in action for Pencoed Phoenix. PICTURE BY JULIE HANCOCK

Phoenix took a blow with a bad injury in the first 10 minutes to prop Rebecca Pope and the game was stopped for a good half hour for an ambulance; we with Rebecca a speedy recovery.

Phoenix started the game well after the break and should have scored a try but it was stolen just before the try line and booted upfield where Seven Sisters scored just before halftime.

Phoenix continued pressure and were a better team and had Sisters worried but couldn't get to that try line.

Seven just took their chances and kept the score ticking over. With failing light, wind and fog it was a last minute break from winger and sidestepper Leanne Burnell who scored a deserved try for Phoenix, as Sam Trickey kicked the conversion before the final whistle, final score 19-7.

Next up for the Phoenix is Caernarfon at home on April 13 and then at home against Gwernyfed on April 16.

JH

Llantwit Major junior rugby round-up

LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC under-13s welcomed Pentyrch to the Rec this past Sunday on a pleasant and fresh morning.

With the injury and illness curse hitting the home side it was a good chance for our new players to get a run out and show their talents and after a team huddle the boys were ready.

Llantwit kicked the ball to the visitors and straight from the off Number 8 Jos Harris bullied his opposing forward by putting in a bone-crunching hit on his opposite number.

With good counter rucking by the home side Llantwit managed to steal the ball from the breakdown and winger Mason Richardson found the ball in his hands out wide, with three players between him and the line he jinked and stepped his way past them and crossed for the opening score of the game.

The home side pack then controlled the pace of the game for a few minutes with Fryer and Roberts making the hard yards and coming ever closer to the visitors' tryline.

In recent weeks where rucking has been an issue the forwards were superb. Henson, Harris, Sims and Chandler-Haines were winning good ball and setting a good platform for the backs to play off. The second try of the game came from a forward. A charge up field from captain Hodge popped the ball out of a tackle to lock Treadgold who was never going to be stopped from 10 metres out.

The visitors started to make some ground but every player running at the Llantwit back line was swiftly brought to ground, fly half Padmore was everywhere chopping down runners left right and centre.

With injuries to the back line players flankers Richardson and McIness stepped into the wing position and the defence was like a brick wall. The defence stayed strong just soaking up the pressure and a superb steal on the floor by Sims popped the ball to Padmore, who then stepped inside his opposite number and wellied the ball up the pitch. Iwan Robinson-Booth gave chase, with 40 metres and 15 players in front of him Iwan outpaced them and scored to make it 19-0. Holloway converted to make it 21-0 at halftime.

The boys knew Pentrych would come out fighting in the second half and a quick lapse in concentration early on got the visitors on the score sheet to make it 21-5. The pack of Roberts, Henson, Chandler-Haines, Fryer, Sims, Tredgold, Harris and Hodge then decided to play the ball tight and making good ground and dragging in the opposition players the ball fell into Holloway's hands.

Like Padmore he hoofed the ball upfield and once again Iwan gave chase and scored once again. It was looking good for the blood and blacks when a restart after the previous try fell into Treadgold's hands. He began his run upfield and brushed off seven tackles to score his second of the game.

Llantwit were to have the final say of the game when a kick landed in the arms of Iwan who, in an incredible change of pace, went from a jog to a full sprint in a blink of an eye. The Pentyrch fly half's expression said it all when Iwan ran the entire length of the pitch to score his hat-trick.

Pentrych tried for a consolation try but another monstrous tackle by Harris swiftly brought the attack to an end when he drove the Pentyrch prop back into touch.

It was by far the best game Llantwit have played this season and to beat any Pentyrch side is a good feather to have in your cap. From start to finish the boys worked for each other and played to their full potential.

Kickers Holloway and Robinson-Booth also walked away with 100 per cent success from the kicking tee. Final score Llantwit Major 42, Pentyrch 5.

Llantwit's next opponents are St Josephs this coming Sunday; there are still two spaces left in the team for anyone interested in joining - for more information contact Kris Pilcher on 07557 128861.

Team: Dom Henson, Rhys Roberts, Tyler Chandler-Haines, Lewis Fryer, Cameron Sims, Connor Teadgold, Jos Harris, Owen Hodge ©, Ben Wilson, Liam Padmore, Dylan Holloway, Iwan Robinson-Booth, Callum McIness, Mason Richardson.

KP

Llantwit Major under-12s' first trip into the Caerphilly Valley was an enjoyable venture for the seasoned supporters who have followed their beloved team to the length and breadth of the south Wales area.

The game against Machen sprung to life when the Machen defence showed Morgan Jenkins too much space on the left wing and the nimble centre bounced off several tackles to score the first points within the first 40 seconds.

Two minutes later the AmmoKnights extended their lead, good play down the left sucked in the cover defenders and as the ball was spread wide fly-half Ben Reilly found himself five yards out with no defenders left to stop him crossing the line.

Having suffered the early setbacks Machen set about pressuring the AmmoKnights line; however the visitors were in no mood to let the Caerphilly outfit breach their defence.

Following 10 scoreless minutes, Llantwit produced some of their best rugby of the season when swift play down the right by Ethan White caused the home defence to become disjointed.

With the ball flowing slickly through both backs and forwards hands it found Ben Moignard waiting on the left wing and he gobbled up the chance sprinting 40 yards to score the third try.

Ethan White scored another straight from the restart and all of a sudden Machen were 20-0 down in 60 seconds.

Llantwit crossed once more in the first half with Morgan Jenkins getting his second on the half-time whistle and the AmmoKnights had a healthy 25-0 lead.

The second half was a slower affair with the forwards swapping places with the backs and vice versa.

Ethan White again showed his promise with a side step that even sent the trees in another direction as he dazzled his way through to score his second try. He converted his own try and it was 32-0.

In the closing moments Llantwit Major added two more unconverted tries; firstly Morgan Jenkins grabbed his hat-trick following a powerful run through the middle of the Machen defence. Zac Williams finished the scoring, grabbing a last minute try and running up the AmmoKnights score to 42-0.

An entertaining encounter with the Llantwit team showing a great of confidence with the ball in hand. The visitors will have to maintain this form with some difficult away trips to come this month.

MR

Llantwit Major under-8s welcomed two teams to play home on Sunday - Kenfig Hill and Pentyrch.

With an excellent turn out of players the team were split into two: team 1 was Flynn, Braydan, Tom G (c), Marcus, Lewys, Kian and Thomas G and team 2 was Thomas L (c), Owen, Brandon, Myles, Rhys, Corey and Dafydd.

Both teams played very well with some excellent tagging, off loading and great tries.

Team 1 scores were Llantwit Major 5, Kenfig Hill 11; try scorers were Thomas G with 2 and Braydan with 3.

The second match was Llantwit Major 3, Pentyrch 8; try scorers were Marcus with 1 and Braydan with 2. Today's captain was Tom Jones and man of the match for team 1 was Braydan.

Team 2 scores were Llantwit Major 6, Kenfig Hill 7; try scorers were Myles, Corey with 3, Thomas L with 2 and Rhys.

The second match was Llantwit Major 5, Pentyrch 11; try scores for this match were Thomas l with 2, Corey, Brandon and Dafydd.

Today's captain was Thomas L and he was also man of the match.

Well done to all players you all played some excellent rugby.

Bombettes make Cup progress

ON Sunday, March 30, Barry Ladies travelled to Gorseinon to play a rescheduled Cup game.

The sun was out which set the mood up for the game. Gorseion kicked off and Barry started strongly and Potter made an awesome tackle.

Gorseinon had to go for uncontested scrums but good teamwork from the forwards pushed Gorseinon onto the backfoot, giving Barry their first try, scored by Young.

Barry's backline then had the opportunity to attack Gorseinon using the forwards. A scrum to Barry gave Potter the opportunity to score Barry's second try.

Kim Jones then smashed through the Gorseinon back line to take the score to 15-5 at half-time.

Rees stepped into Barry's backline, powering through a tiring defence which gave Jones the fourth try to take the score to 20-5, the conversion was missed by Richards.

Barry gave it their all with support and communication coming from around the park.

O'Neil stepped up, chip and chased from half way and the forward work gave the ground needed for Potter to again power through, giving Barry their fifth try to a final score of 22-5.

A club spokeswoman said: :We would also like wish good luck to Rebecca Husk as she takes on a career in the army - the Bombettes and all at Barry Rugby Club wish you the best of luck."

Barry ladies are holding a live band night on May 17 at Barry rugby club - £5 a ticket.

RB

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www.frftoyota.co.uk

Girls' football is on the rise in Penarth

GIRLS football is on the rise in the Penarth area after a primary school league was developed by local club, Vale Ladies & Girls FC.

The event at Ysgol Pen Y Garth Sports Hall saw Victoria Primary, St Joseph's RC, Albert Primary and St Andrew's Major schools play regular friendly fixtures.

This development is an add-on to the already established Barry Primary Girls League, where 15 teams from 13 schools currently play matches.

Club chairman and coach Luke Williams commented: "The Penarth League is an extra opportunity we have developed for girls to be introduced to football. The success of our school based opportunities has already seen a large number of new players join our club. In addition, we are now seeing local schools offering their own girls football clubs during lunchtimes and after-school sessions, which is a crucial part to growing the game."

Vale Ladies & Girls FC already have more than 100 players representing the club on a weekly basis from the age of seven to adults.

The club is always recruiting new players. Telephone 07832 273688, email valegirlsfc@gmail.com or visit www.valegirlsfc.co.uk.

Athletic's open day

BARRY Athletic bowls club is a private club situated on Barry Island.

We are now looking to recruit new and experienced bowlers of any age or sex to join the club, and are holding an open day on Sunday, April 27 at 2pm and invite anybody who may be interested in finding a new sporting interest to come along and try the game of bowls.

All you will need is a pair of flat soled shoes (no heels or trainers), and we will provide the rest. We will have qualified coaches on hand to help any beginners, so please come along and bring your family for a fun afternoon.

CC

Fowler joins college team

FORMER Cardiff RFC director of rugby and Cardiff University head of rugby Martyn Fowler has joined Cardiff and Vale College to establish a world-class rugby academy.

Martyn said he was excited to take the lead in CAVC's Rugby Academy: "The Academy will be comparable with any of the four regions with its player development and player pathway, while it will also develop a broader holistic model that promotes an environment where academic and sporting excellence can be developed hand in hand," he said.

"I have very strong working relationships with the three Blues region universities - Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan and the University of South Wales (Pontypridd & Treforest) for those not wishing to leave the region."

ABOVE: Martyn Fowler.

Martyn is a level four coach with more than 15 years coaching experience; five of those years were spent coaching in the Principality Premiership with Bedwas RFC and Cardiff RFC and he is extremely excited about setting up a Rugby Academy at CAVC.

For more information about the Rugby Academy at Cardiff and Vale College email mfowler@cavc.ac.uk.

CB

THE BARRY CHESS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

THE Camelots have played twice recently.

They earned a win over relegation rivals Cardiff Pawns by a margin of 3-2; Craig Woolcock and Lee Davis had comfortable wins while John Stephenson played a long game and was a pawn up when he won on time to record his first victory in division 1.

They also played against the Cardiff Bishops and were beaten by a score of 3-5-1.5 with Lee and Craig being responsible for all of our points.

The Camelots are currently sitting in fifth place in the table having earned 40 points from 17 matches and have only one game to play.

They are not mathematically safe yet as the Cardiff Pawns have 28.5 points, but have three games to play and so they could reach 43.5 points in the unlikely event that they score the maximum 15 points from their remaining games. This week also saw the relegation of St Johns' College Positrons.

The Quarks in division 2 had a match away to Porthcawl - unfortunately we lost this match 3-2.

On board 2 Sam White earned an excellent quick draw against the highly rated Neil Stuart, while on board 5 Peter Watkins found a neat tactic to force a win while John Stephenson had winning opportunities but had to settle for a draw.

The Quarks remain at the bottom of the table but have not been relegated yet. There are still two games to go but we need to win both by a large margin to avoid relegation to the third tier.

In division 4 the Gambits played their second play-off game away to North Cardiff Ravens. Although heavily outrated the Gambits ran out winners, picking up three points.

The top four boards were drawn with newcomer Stephen Bonutto picking up his first ever victory in only his second league match to seal the victory.

This means that the Gambits are guaranteed fifth place in the division; the Nelson Griffins became the first team to be promoted to division 3.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com. **PHIL JONES**

Local derby for the Stags' league opener

BARRY ATHLETIC Cricket Club embark on their season this weekend with two home friendlies.

On Saturday, April 12 we are up against Blackwood Town and Sunday, April 13 we face Machen CC; both games 2pm start, players to be at the ground for 1pm.

There is also a midweek friendly next Wednesday, April 16 against Barry West End CC with a 6pm start; please be at the ground for 5.30pm.

On Saturday, April 26, Barry Athletic entertain Sully Centurions at the Island Oval for the first league game of the season with a 1pm start, and not Newbridge as previously advertised.

Junior nets are also underway and are taking place at the Cadoxton Sports Hall every Monday, 6pm -7pm.

Anyone interested in sponsoring Barry Athletic Cricket Club this season can contact sponsor manager Mark Rees on 01446 701936, 07570135831 or e-mail markrees509@hotmail.com.

Any juniors interested in playing cricket aged from seven to 15 can also contact the details above. **MR**

Stellar line-up at Southerndown Golf Club event

Tim Harry.

A GALAXY of international stars from all four home countries – as well as competitors from Canada and Denmark – will be taking part in the prestigious Duncan Putter tournament at Southerndown Golf Club this weekend.

First to tee off will be the current holder, Tim Harry, from Dinas Powys. Tim stunned the golfing world last year by becoming the youngest ever winner of the Duncan Putter – at just 15 years of age! But he will be hard pressed to retain his title in the face of the strongest ever field – over 40 golfers below +2.0 handicap.

This is the first of the Welsh order of merit amateur golf event of the season and will showcase many of the country's top golfers.

Visitors are welcome to go along to Southerndown and marvel at the talent which in years to come may lead to honours such as the Walker Cup, the Ryder Cup – and, who knows – perhaps even the coveted 'green jacket'!

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Richard Price has been an Autosmart franchisee in the Newport area for over 20 years. After investing hard work and dedication into building up a profitable business, he can now look forward to a comfortable retirement.

"Before joining Autosmart I wanted a new challenge. I wanted to be my own boss and reap the rewards. I'd always been interested in cars and the motor trade so Autosmart seemed perfect for me. 20 years of business later I am pleased to have the freedom of retiring with ease.

"Autosmart have been good to me from day one. I was impressed with the support I was given to launch my business. Their award winning support continued even once I was trading. They are always on the other end of the phone to give me knowledge and advice when I need. Even 20 years of business later, I still spend helpful time with an Autosmart coach to make sure my business stays on track.

"I've enjoyed the independence and also having the flexibility of meeting new people. My customers are so varied, from limousine hires, valeters and sign manufacturers to flooring suppliers, farms and pubs too."

"I'm glad my hard work has paid off and I can now look forward to spending even more quality time with my family and friends."

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08 LAND ROVER Discovery 3 2.7 Diesel HSE, Automatic, 7-Seater. in silver with black leather, 58,000 miles, high spec **£19,995**

60 MERCEDES C200 CDi Blue Efficiency Executive SE. In white, with black leather trim, 28,000 miles **£14,995**

61 SAAB 9.5 Vector SE 2.0 TD (160) Auto. In met grey, 41,000 miles with leather trim **£12,995**

60 MERCEDES B160 Sport (Blue Efficiency). In black, 25,000 miles, on offer at **£10,495**

54 MERCEDES SLK 350 Auto. In silver, with leather, sat nav, air scarf etc, stylish convertible at **£8,995**

10 FORD Mondeo 1.8 TDCi Zetec 5-Dr. In silver, 31,000 miles, usual refinements **£8,995**

11 KIA Venga 2 1.6 Automatic. In red, 20,000 miles, a/c, alloys, p/sensors **£8,695**

11 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.6 Dynamique 7-seater. In ice blue metallic, 27,000 miles, 1 owner **£8,495**

08 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Titanium X In met grey, 62,000 miles, great drive **£7,995**

11 VW Polo 1.2 Diesel (75) SE. In silver, 65,000 miles, fantastic value at **£7,995**

11 FIAT 500 1.2 Pop In white, 17,000 miles, 1 owner **£7,495**

10 RENAULT Scenic 1.5 DCi Privelege. In met silver, 44,000 miles, 1 owner **£7,495**

59 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.9 CDTi Active + In black, 26,000 miles, 1 owner, diesel, 7-seater **£7,495**

61 VW Polo 1.2S (New Shape) 3-Dr. In black, 33,000 miles **£6,995**

58 MAZDA 6 2.0 TS2 Diesel 5-Dr. In black, 44,000 miles **£6,995**

56 FORD S-Max 1.8 Diesel Zetec 7 Seater. In silver, 82,000 miles, very nice example at **£6,995**

55 JAGUAR X-Type 2.2 Diesel SE In Metallic sand, cream leather, only 17,000 miles **£6,995**

11 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Expression 5-Dr. In electric blue, 32,000 miles, good looking car at **£6,795**

11 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Edge 3-Dr. In silver, 48,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,495**

09 NISSAN Note 1.4 Acenta In met blue, 34,000 miles with sat-nav **£6,495**

58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 CDTi Design 5-Dr. In silver, 33,000 miles diesel at **£6,495**

09 FORD Focus 1.8 Zetec 5-Dr. In black, 53,000 miles, 2 owners **£6,495**

08 MINI Cooper. In oxigen blue with white roof, 59,000 miles, 1 owner with stop/start **£6,495**

08 SEAT Leon 1.6 Stylance. In met gold, 57,000 miles, stylish family hatch **£5,995**

07 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi Stylance 5-Dr. In black, 65,000 miles, a/c, alloys etc **£5,995**

07 HONDA Civic 1.8 Sport 5-Dr. In silver, 43,000 miles **£5,995**

55 KIA Sportage 2.0 CRDi XE 5-Dr. In black, 76,000 miles, 1 lady owner, diesel 4x4 at **£5,995**

59 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique. New shape, 62,000 miles, in met silver **£5,695**

07 MINI Cooper Pepper Automatic. In lightning blue, with black roof, 70,000 miles with sat-nav etc **£5,695**

58 VW Polo 1.4 TDi Match 3-Dr. In met grey, 69,000 miles, £30 road tax **£5,495**

07 SSANGYONG Rexton RX 270 SE Diesel 7-Seater. In silver, black leather, DVD etc, 63,000 miles, 4x4 **£5,495**

10 PEUGEOT 207 Verve 1.4 3-Dr. In gunmetal, metalic, 39,000 miles, alloys, a/c etc **£5,295**

59 KIA Rio 1.4 5-Dr. In black, 1 owner **£4,995**

59 VAUXHALL Astra 1.3 Diesel Life 5-Dr In black, 64,000 miles **£4,995**

09 FORD KA 1.2 Style (New Shape). In black, 46,000 miles, 1 owner **£4,995**

09 SUZUKI Swift 1.3 Diesel DDi5 5-Dr. In met blue, 82,000 miles **£4,995**

07 HONDA Jazz 1.3 DSi Sport. In electric blue, 44,000 miles, very desirable at **£4,995**

06 SEAT Altea 1.9 TDi Rference. In black, 53,000 miles, 1 owner **£4,995**

05 VOLVO V70 2.4 SE (170) Auto. Met grey/beige leather, 80,000 miles, large estate **£4,995**

56 TOYOTA Avensis 2.2 D-4D T180. In met silver, 82,000 miles with leather, sat-nav etc **£4,995**

58 HYUNDAI i10 Comfort 1.2 5-dr. In met grey, 32,000 miles, £30 road tax **£4,695**

07 NISSAN Note 1.6 SVE Automatic. In silver, 47,000 miles, superb example **£4,695**

58 FORD FIESTA 1.2 Zetec Climate 3-Dr. In apple green metallic **£4,495**

58 SMART Fortwo Passion MHD Auto In met blue/black two tone, 25,000 miles, 21,000 miles **£4,495**

07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SXi Automatic. In black, 52,000 miles with a/c **£4,495**

04 MINI Cooper (Pepper). In met blue, 68,000 miles, 1 owner with a/c, very nice example **£4,495**

07 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr. In met grey, 70,000 miles with a/c, alloys etc **£4,295**

55 MINI Cooper. In chilli red with black roof, alloys, c/d etc, superb value at **£4,295**

04 VW Beetle 1.9 Diesel. In speed blue, 53,000 miles, 1 owner **£4,295**

09 CHEVROLET Aveo 1.2 LS 5-Dr. In silver, 24,000 miles, fantastic value at **£3,995**

58 FIAT Grande Punto GP In silver, 49,000 miles **£3,995**

06 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 Design Automatic 5-Dr. In silver, 32,000 miles **£3,995**

55 MERCEDES C180 Kompressor SE Auto. In silver, fantastic value, executive saloon **£3,995**

05 PEUGEOT 307cc 2.0. In met grey, full electric folding roof, 69,000 miles **£3,995**

05 MERCEDES A170 Elegance SE 5-Dr. In met gold, 84,000 miles, nice example at **£3,995**

07 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SXi Coupe. In black, a/c, alloys etc, stylish sport coupe **£3,695**

07 CITROEN C1 Vibe 3-Dr. In red, 44,000 miles, with rear spoiler, low insurance **£3,695**

07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-Dr. In black, 53,000 miles **£3,695**

06 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 VVTi Sport. In met grey, 69,000 miles, £30 road tax **£3,695**

08 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus 5-Dr. In black, 67,000 miles, low insurance **£3,495**

08 FIAT Punto Active 1.2 3-Dr. In black, 60,000 miles, low insurance **£3,495**

56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 Activ 5-Dr. In met silver, 50,000 miles, low insurance **£3,495**

56 PEUGEOT 207 1.4S (90) 3-Dr. In electric blue, 63,000 miles with a/c **£3,495**

06 MAZDA 6 2OTS 5-Dr. In silver, 78,000 miles, 2 owners **£3,495**

05 MAZDA 3 TS2 1.6 5-Dr. In met grey, 71,000 miles **£3,295**

08 FORD KA 1.3 Style. In silver, 39,000 miles, low insurance **£2,695**

07 CITROEN C1 Vibe 3-Dr. In red, 88,000 miles, 1 owner, low insurance **£2,995**

05 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 3-Dr. In crystal green, 52,000 miles, alloys, a/c **£2,995**

05 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SE. In red with black leather trim, 70,000 miles, sports coupe at **£2,995**

54 VW Polo 1.2 Twist 3-Dr. In silver, 66,000 miles, low insurance **£2,995**

02 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 Automatic 5-Dr. In silver, 65,000 miles with a/c, s/roof etc **£2,995**

04 SUZUKI Wagon R 1.3 Automatic. In met blue, 73,000 miles, easy to get in and out **£2,695**

55 FORD Street KA 1.6 Ice. In met grey, with full leather, 59,000 miles, convertable at **£2,495**

51 HONDA Civic 1.6 V-Tec S Automatic 3-Dr. In silver, 53,000 miles, 1 owner **£2,495**

53 FIAT Punto 1.4 Sporting, 6 speed. In ice blue, 70,000 miles, multi c/d, alloys **£2,195**

54 RENAULT Laguna 1.8 Extreme. In met grey, 71,000 miles, 1 owner **£1,795**

53 ROVER 75 1.8 SE. In met gold, 89,000 miles, nice example at **£1,795**

10 RENAULT Scenic 1.5 DCi Privilege
Met silver, 44,000 miles, 1 owner
£7,495

58 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec Climate 3-Dr.
In apple green, metallic
£4,495

04 VW Beetle 1.9 Diesel
In speed blue, 53,000 miles, 1 owner
£4,295

11 FIAT 500 1.2 Pop
In white, 17,000 miles, 1 owner
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61 SAAB 9.5 Vector SE 2.0 TD (160) Auto
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MOTORING WITH TIM SAUNDERS

FIRST impressions matter. In business, it is that care and attention to appearance, dress and general conduct that makes a lasting impression.

The same can be applied to vehicles and that's where Suzuki scores highly. From that first moment of opening the door and sitting in the driver's seat I feel at home in the SX4 S-Cross.

Bear in mind that I drive a lot of cars and yet Suzukis always stand out because they are all comfortable.

I test the Suzuki during the worst weather for 100 years. At one point over 100,000 homes are without power and some unfortunate residents in Somerset have been without power since Christmas.

Flooding is encountered on almost every route but my Japanese friend with its raised ride height is ideal in such situations.

High winds and water-logged roads ensure that it is nigh on impossible to exceed 60mph. Those gusting high winds do buffet the Suzuki but it feels confident enough.

It is quite sluggish though, especially on start up and so it is pleasing to find that it is equipped with a sport mode that really does liven things up. In fact, it remains on this mode for most of the test because I find it gives it the oomph that I require.

Interestingly, it doesn't affect fuel economy that much either, with the vehicle still returning over 40mpg, which I'm quite impressed with considering it's a 1.6-litre petrol.

When the conditions become too slippery, it is easy to turn the centre-mounted dial to snow and mud mode, which is also extremely useful during the test. Some of the routes that I am most familiar with have been closed due to the floods.

THE SUZUKI SX4 S-CROSS.

The raised ride height, the permanent 4WD and the powerful windscreen wipers and washers make driving in these challenging conditions enjoyable rather than a chore.

My two girls in the back quickly fall asleep and my wife Caroline finds her heated front seat comfortable.

"I like the lemon fragrance to the windscreen wash," she says, adding that sometimes it can be very overpowering requiring the windows to be wound down.

The large glass panoramic roof makes the cabin feel light and airy and on one of the days of the test,the sun actually appears, bringing the glass roof really into its own. I like the fact that the front part also has a tilting sunroof function.

For me, the driver's seat could offer a little more lumbar support but the black leather seats are hardwearing and easy to clean, which is ideal when my two daughters are involved.

Externally, it's a good looking vehicle with quite a striking front thanks to its bumper, as you can see in the video at *testdrives.biz*. The black alloys are a neat touch, too. I like the power folding wing mirrors, which are always a welcome addition, especially when parking on busy roadsides.

The sat nav system is the easiest I have come across. It's simply a matter of tapping in the postcode and pressing 'Go' and a female voice talks you through the route. My only complaint is that the touch screen is far too sensitive for my thick fingers!

The other problem is that the system doesn't allow you to operate it while driving. It would be handy if there was a function to allow a passenger to operate it while the vehicle is being driven.

On our return home, we do notice that the steamed up windows take a long time to demist and that is with the blowers on full.

If I was to buy one, I would probably opt for a more conservative colour such as blue, rather than the lime green of the test model.

Facts at a glance:
New price: £14,999 to £23,549.
0-60mph: 12 secs.
Top speed: 108mph.
Economy: 40mpg.
Watch the video at *www.testdrives.biz*.

Cardiff Arms Park coaching for youngsters

CHILDREN aged four to seven from across the Vale and Cardiff, recently took part in a unique opportunity at Cardiff Arms Park – where they were coached in rugby and football skills.

PG10 Coaching and Little Stars teamed up to provide sessions for children to benefit grassroots sport.

Following the festival children where given opportunities to join PG10 Tiny Tots football programme held every Tuesday and attend Little Stars rugby sessions.

Peter Griffiths of PG10 said: "The key aim for the festival was for children to be introduced to both sports and enjoy themselves. As children grow up they can be offered the chance to join the weekly development centre also, ensuring a clear development pathway."

The next festival at Cardiff Arms Park is on Sunday, June 8, from 10am-3pm. To book on the festival, telephone 0845 680 6415, online www.littlestarsrugby.co.uk www.pg10coaching.co.uk or email enquiries@littlestarsrugby.co.uk.

The Petanque veterans shine at championships

THE executive would like to thank all the teams that took part in the national veterans' championship, and for making the competition another very enjoyable day at the Wenvoe PC on Sunday, March 29.

After a preliminary round in the morning, the top eight teams qualified for the championship elimination rounds in the afternoon.

Only two out of the 12 teams that entered won all of their games in the morning; the two teams being KPB (Barbara Vaughan, Kon Tomczyk from Caerleon RFC PC and Phil Bradshaw from Monkstone Inn PC) and the Monkstone Minotaurs (Vickie and Bernard Adshead and Keith Nott).

In the quarter-final stage the four most experienced teams qualified for the semi-finals, of which one of the teams was the reigning champions Age Concern.

Unfortunately, The Monkstone Minotaurs failed to capitalised on their success in the preliminary round.

The final was between KPB and the Monkstone Monarchs (Mike Jones, John Barnes and Roger Griffin), unfortunately the Monarchs could not stop KPB from taking the lead and pull way to win 13:5 and take the title.

The winning team of Barbara Vaughan, Kon Tomczyk and Phil Bradshaw will now be invited to attend the Over 55's European Championship, which is to be held in Lulelå, Sweden between June 27/28.

Congratulations to the Wenvoe team of Gloria Davies, Karen Macleod and Mike Coleman on winning the competition. **JS**

Point-to-point comes to town!

POINT-TO-POINT Steeplechasing returns to the Vale on Saturday (April 12) when the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt stage their annual races at Uplands Farm, Ystradowen.

The feature race is the John Lovell Memorial Men's Open Race and the winning horse will qualify for the £7,500 Bonhams mens Open Point-To-Point Championship Final to be run at Cheltenham on April 30.

Cardiff bookmaker John Lovell, who was sadly killed in a motoring accident, was the man responsible for bringing computerised betting to racecourses in the UK. He was a great point-to-point stalwart and owned a number of race horses and point-to-pointers in his time.

The winner of the Ladies' Open race will qualify for the £10,000 AGA Ladies Open Point-To-Point Championship to be run at Stratford on May 30. The winner of this race will also pick up the Mandryka Challenge Trophy.

Mandryka who in the 1970s was tagged the 'Mighty Midget', 'Welsh Wonder' and 'Rhondda Rocket', won a total of 38 ladies' open races-all with Shan Morgan in the saddle - five men's open races and a Chepstow hunter chase when ridden by Cowbridge's John Llewellyn.

There will be seven races with the first of them at 2pm.

EVAN'S FIRST HUNTER CHASE WIN

Llanharan's Evan David rode his first hunter chase winner when landing the Totnes & Bridgetown Races Company Novice' Hunters' Chase at Newton Abbot last week on Mr D H Morgan's seven-year-old bay mare Chosen Milan which romped home some 31 lengths ahead of Little Cornham.

Chosen Milan, a 2-1 chance, is trained by Robert Luke, who also provided Evan with another winner at the West Wales Area Club fixture on Sunday. Evan took the Connolly's Red Mills Intermediate race on 3-1 shot Anger Management.

Not to be outdone, Evan's older brother Tom, who was in action at the Portman Point-To-Point at Badbury Rings, took the open maiden race on Peter Luff's Calusa Comet, the 7-4 favourite.

KRIS LANDS RESTRICTED

Kris Hanmer, who rides out for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, won the restricted race at the West Wales Area Club meeting on Neville Thomas's Minellaformarriage, who proved too speedy for Lee Powers's well fancied Grian Fidh; Minellaformarriage was a 6-1 outsider.

WILLIAMS' AINTREE SUCCESS

Evan Williams' Court Minstrel, who carried top weight of 11st 12lbs, won the £25,024 Maxilead Handicap Hurdle for Conditional and Amateur Riders at Aintree at odds of 16-1.

The seven-year-old was partnered by Adam Wedge, who has certainly made a name for himself since joining Williams' Llancarfan yard.

However, Evan will probably come in for some stick from his Saturday Daily Mirror column readers for not even mentioning the horse in his popular column!

Evan, who thanks to State Of Play and Cappa Bleu, had a horse in the frame in the Grand National for the past five years, was represented this time by One In A Milan (Adam Wedge) who fell at the 22nd fence.

However, Evan's stable jockey Paul Moloney, who had ridden State Of Play and Cappa Bleu, kept up his excellent record in the race when finishing fourth on Alvarado, a horse once trained by Evan but now by Fergal O'Brien.

Aberthin's Tim Vaughan saw his Golan Way (Michael Byrne) come down at fence eight.

TUDOR REIGNS

Cowbridge's James Tudor, riding Mr I R Mann's Sharp Suit took the North Warwickshire Hunt Club Members Race at Mollington last Saturday.

Sharp Suit, who went off the odds-on favourite, is now unbeaten in four starts.

KNIGHT BLAZE

Knight Blaze, a seven-year-old bay mare owned and trained by David Brace OBE at Pyle near Bridgend, and ridden by Bradley Gibbs, won the TBA CA Club Members Mares and Fillies race at the West Wales Area Club Point-To-Point last Sunday.

BRIAN LEE

Players wanted

BARRY RFC under-12s rugby team (current year 7) are currently on the lookout for new players.

We have a new coaching team and have spaces for new players of all ability and positions to play, learn and develop.

We train every Sunday and Tuesday evening; please contact Carol on 07768 017673. **CG**

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CRCC prove to be too strong for Cowbridge

COWBRIDGE RFC travelled to Llandaff Fields last Saturday to play Clwb Rygbi Cymru Caerdydd with a few enforced changes from the team that beat Bryncethin, and unfortunately got off to a slow start against a strong Clwb side and found themselves three tries down within 15 minutes.

Cowbridge then started to get into the game through some good forward play with No 8 Ryan Hall featuring strongly and the good work was rewarded with a try for Ryan on the half hour.

Clwb responded with their fourth try before Cowbridge finished the half pressing their opponents' try line, but could not cross the whitewash, with repeated Clwb infringements going unpunished by the referee.

Clwb were first to score in the second half to make it 29-5 but Cowbridge responded with a Huw Llewellyn score in the corner.

Cowbridge continued to press for long periods but could not turn the pressure into points and the hosts had the final word with their excellent right winger scoring in the corner in the last few minutes to win 34-10.

Cowbridge unfortunately got off to a slow start against a good team, gradually got back into the game with a couple of good tries but weren't clinical enough and failed to convert good pressure into points, whereas Clwb were very strong behind and finished their chances well.

How different it was on the Tuesday before when Cowbridge made the short journey to Bryncethin to play under floodlights and enjoyed the experience, running out 39-15 winners.

Bryncethin started well and there was great defence, including a superb ankle tap by outside half Alex Jones to stop their full back scoring, and holding up his opposite number over the line by flanker Rhod Walker.

Bryncethin took the lead on 17 minutes with a penalty and increased it in the 24th minute with a try down the right wing.

But almost from the restart Cowbridge scored following a good run from centre Nick Davies back towards the forwards.

A penalty resulted which was quickly taken and scrum half Tom James dived over; but two minutes later a bullocking run by their prop supported by the full back gave Bryncethin a converted try and a 10 point lead. Luckily a penalty and drop kick didn't hit the target.

Richie Howson was full of running from fullback and his counter attack up the right wing nearly brought a scoring chance for wing Jamie Picton-Tuberville.

A penalty just before halftime was put over by centre Carwyn Morgan to bring a halftime score of 15-8.

Six minutes into the second half and from the lineout hard working second row Kyle Jones barged over for a converted try.

Two great tries followed; first after 11 minutes the ball was moved to the left and Howson entered the line, the ball was recycled and Luke Boys came onto the ball and ran under the posts for a captain's try; Morgan added the extras.

Five minutes later following a great rumble upfield by No 8 Ryan Hall, the ball was moved left by Tom James, Howson again came into the line at pace and fed flying wing Luke James, who took play right up to the full back before passing inside for Howson to cross for a well deserved try. Morgan added an excellent conversion.

Rhys Price replaced hooker Connor Boys at the midpoint and two minutes later a further penalty stretched the score. More changes saw Rhys Thomas and Geraint Thomas come on but there was no let up in Cowbridge's all-out play.

Outside half Jones jinked and handed off to put himself clear and run in from 25 metres. Morgan completed the scoring.

The result was built without question on the early defence when the pressure was on; Cowbridge came through that and grew in confidence and scored some excellent team tries.

The boys now have five games left this season. There is no game this Saturday as it's the SWALEC Bowl semi-final. On Saturday, April 19 we travel to St Josephs, followed by a home game against Llantwit Major on Wednesday, April 23 (kick off 6.45pm).

On Saturday, April 26 it's a home game against Llandaff, on Wednesday, April 30 we are home to Abercwmboi (kick off 6.30pm) and finally a crucial away game at bottom of the table Tonyrefail on Saturday, May 10.

The boys need all the support we can muster for these last few games so come along and cheer them on.

RV/RK/GT

Allstars are the champions!

The under-13s team.

The under-15s A team.

The under-15s B team.

COWBRIDGE ALLSTARS under-13 and under-15s took part in the Cardiff and Vale Clubs netball tournament on Saturday, April 5 at the House of Sport in Cardiff.

The under-13s started off with a game against CTK (B) winning 8-0. They then played Eastside, Red Dragon, Creigiau (A), Creigiau (B), Penarth (A), Penarth (B) and Barry, winning all of the games comfortably.

This set up a tense final against CTK (A), who had also won all of their games up to that point. Cowbridge dominated the game, winning 6-2, and were crowned Cardiff and the Vale under-13 champions.

Sophie Rees, Molly Ward Tossell, Bethan Edwards and Ella Jones were selected amongst the top 20 under-13 players.

GB

Under-13s shine at Rosslyn Park sevens tournament

DESPITE exiting in the quarter-finals at the Rosslyn Park HSBC National Schools Sevens, Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupil Ben Jones is taking solace in the fact that they sent the reigning champions packing.

Jones and Cowbridge's under-13s claimed a dramatic last-gasp 26-24 victory over junior title holders Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Wakefield in the last 16 in south west London.

But, despite that memorable victory, Cowbridge fell to a 24-10 loss to Dean Close School in their very next match in the quarter-finals, in the 75th anniversary of the prestigious tournament.

But it wasn't just Cowbridge's under-13s making waves at the Rosslyn Park Sevens, with their under-16s reaching the last 32 of the Colts competition before losing to St Joseph's College, Ipswich.

Their under-18s failed to make it out of the group stages of the open competition meaning the under-13s were the main success story with Jones upbeat about their performance.

"It was disappointing not to go any further, especially because we did so well on the first day," said 13-year-old Jones.

Cowbridge shared the Rosslyn Park pitches with more than 600 teams from across the UK and abroad but still managed to catch the eye of England scrum-half Danny Care.

Care, who has won 47 caps for England and is an HSBC Ambassador for the Rosslyn Park Sevens, insists he saw enough from Cowbridge to notice that they have a few stars in the making.

England Rugby Union and former England sevens player Danny Care was speaking on behalf of HSBC at the Rosslyn Park HSBC National Schools Sevens where he helped run HSBC coaching clinics for schools during the tournament; for more information visit www.rpns7.co.uk.

RB

Under-15s' best performance of season

COWBRIDGE under-15s produced their best performance of the season to beat a strong Caerphilly side by five tries to three, 31-20.

Once again Cowbridge's smaller but more mobile pack got the better of opponents much heavier and taller than them, with one forward big enough to be playing in the Welsh XV!

Two tries by centre Dan Bunney and a try from full back Harrison Stevens, two of which were converted by outside half Rhys Beynon, saw the home side leading 19-15 at the break.

The second half saw both teams at their best, with fast flowing rugby entertaining the crowd to a highly exciting game.

Dan Bunney completed his hat trick of tries early on, only to see the visitors hit back with an unconverted try to leave the game delicately balanced at 24-20.

With 10 minutes remaining prop Josh Evans scored the home side's final try, converted by Rhys Beynon, to put Cowbridge two scores ahead.

A period of sustained pressure from Caerphilli in the dying minutes was met by stout defence from Joe Nott, Otto Gwuy and Duncan Ace and a try-saving tackle by wing Seán Davies, leaving Cowbridge with a well deserved victory.

ML